Armies of the Baltic Independence Wars 1918–20

TOOMAS BOLTOWSKY & NIGEL THOMAS PhD

ILLUSTRATED BY JOHNNY SHUMATE

ELI • 227

Armies of the Baltic Independence Wars 1918–20

TOOMAS BOLTOWSKY & NIGEL THOMAS PhD

ILLUSTRATED BY JOHNNY SHUMATE

Series editor Martin Windrow

CONTENTS

BACKGROUND 4

RED ARMY 7

Organization ▪ **The Red Army's Baltic campaigns**: Estonian War of Independence, 28 November 1918–2 February 1920 – Latvian War of Independence, 1 December 1918–11 August 1920 – Lithuanian-Bolshevik War, 12 December 1918–12 July 1920

ESTONIA 12

Estonian People's Army ▪ Organization ▪ Uniforms & insignia – rank insignia – branch & unit distinctions – equipment & weapons ▪ Estonia's allies: Baltic Germans – Denmark – Finland – Great Britain – Ingria – Sweden

Estonian Independence War, 22 November 1918–2 February 1920 The great retreat, November–December 1918 – reorganization & counterattack, November 1918-February 1919 – failed Red Army offensive, February–May 1919 – incursions into Russia & Latvia, May–June 1919 – the Landeswehr campaign, May–June 1919 – defending the borders, July–August 1919 – second advance into Russia, October–November 1919 – the last battles, November–December 1919 ▪ Conclusion

LATVIA 37

Latvian Army ▪ Organization ▪ Uniforms and insignia – rank insignia – branch distinctions

Latvian Independence War, 1 December 1918–11 August 1920 An uncertain beginning – Southern Front, January–March 1919 – the Landeswehr campaign, April–July 1919 – Northern Front, January–July 1919 – final campaigns, October 1919–July 1920

LITHUANIA 46

Lithuanian Army ▪ Organization ▪ Uniforms & insignia – rank insignia – branch distinctions

Lithuanian Independence Wars, 12 December 1918–29 November 1920 Lithuanian-Bolshevik War, 12 December 1918–12 July 1920 ▪ Lithuanian-Bermontian War, 26 July–15 December 1919 ▪ Polish-Lithuanian War, April 1919–29 November 1920

GERMANY AND THE BALTIC 52

Organization: Ober Ost – VI Reserve Corps (Freikorps) – Baltic Landeswehr

WHITE RUSSIAN FORCES 56

Organization: Pskov Volunteer Corps/ Northern Corps – Northern/ North-Western Army – Western Volunteer Army

Tables of rank insignia 62

INDEX 64

ARMIES OF THE BALTIC INDEPENDENCE WARS 1918–20

BACKGROUND

On 8 March 1917[1] Russia's February Revolution broke out, as ordinary citizens rioted against the Empire's deteriorating economic and military situation. This led to Tsar Nikolai II's abdication on 16 March, and a democratic Provisional Government, which was sympathetic to the ambitions of Russia's many nations – including the Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians – for national autonomy. In March the Russian Imperial Army was redesignated the Russian Army, Aleksandr Kerensky became Prime Minister on 21 July, and the Russian Republic was born on 14 September.

Kerensky remained committed to supporting Russia's wartime allies and to defending Russia from the advance of the Central Powers (Germany and Austro-Hungary). However, the 'Kerensky Offensive' in Austrian Galicia during 1–19 July 1917 failed, and the Russian Army lost even more ground. Kerensky's government was discredited, and on 7 Nov the Bolshevik leader Vladimir Ulyanov ('Lenin') organized a *coup d'état*. The Russian Republic was renamed the Soviet Russian Republic on 25 Jan 1918, and on 10 July the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR), with the capital at Petrograd (now St Petersburg). Immediately civil war broke out between Lenin's Red Guards (from 15 Jan 1918, the Red Army) and anti-communist elements of the Russian Army, unofficially called the White Armies.

1 Russia used the Julian Calendar, 13 days behind the Gregorian Calendar, until the October Revolution, but for clarity all dates here follow the Gregorian Calendar.

Place-name variations

Many towns in the Baltic region had different names in neighbouring languages, or changed names temporarily during the Soviet period. The most important variations are listed below.

Estonia
Paide – Weißenstein (Ger)
Pärnu – Pernau (Ger)
Petseri – Petchora (Russ)
Rakvere – Wesenberg (Ger)
Tallinn – Reval (Ger), Revel (Russ)
Tapa – Taps (Ger)
Tartu – Dorpat (Ger), Derpt (Russ)
Valga – Walk (Ger)
Viljandi – Fellin (Ger)
Võru – Werro (Ger)

Latvia
Alūksne – Marienburg (Ger)
Cēsis – Võnnu (Est), Wenden (Ger)
Daugavpils – Dünaburg (Ger)
Dobele – Doblen (Ger)
Gulbene – Schwanenburg (Ger)
Jēkabpils – Jakobstadt (Ger)
Liepāja – Mitau (Ger), Mitav (Russ)
Rēzekne – Rositten (Ger)
Skrunda – Schrunden (Ger)
Tukums – Tuckum (Ger)
Valmiera – Wolmar (Ger)
Ventspils – Windau (Ger), Vindav (Russ)

Lithuania
Alytus – Alitten (Ger)
Kaunas – Kauen (Ger), Kovno (Russ), Kowno (Pol)
Marijampolė – Mariampol (Ger, Pol)
Panevėžsy – Ponewiesch (Ger), Poniewież (Pol)
Šiauliai – Schaulen (Ger)
Tauragė – Tauroggen (Ger)
Ukmergė – Wilkomir (Ger, Pol)
Vilnius – Wilno (Russ, Pol)
Zarasai – Jeziorosy (Pol)

Russia
Krasnaya Gorka – Krasnoflotsk (Sov)
Petrograd (1914), Leningrad (1924), St Petersburg (1991)
Yamburg – Kingissepp (1922)

Former German towns
Königsberg – Kaliningrad (Russ, 1946)
Memel – Klaipeda (Lith)

Abbrevations:
Ger – German
Lith – Lithuanian
Pol – Polish
Russ – Russian
Sov – Soviet period

Table 1: Selective battle order of RSFSR Red Army in the Baltic region, 28 November 1918–12 July 1920

(**Note**: **in all Tables**, slash / after entry = 'later redesignated or re-formed as').

Seventeenth Army (1.11.1918 – 2.2.1920), Estonia & Petrograd province. 1 Pskov, 2 Petrograd, 2 Novgorod, 19, 6, 2, 10, 56 RDs; Estonian RB/RD.

Estonian Red Army (18.2. – 30.5.1919), Estonia. Estonian RD; 6 & 11 RDs (Marienburg Group);10 RD (Pskov Group).

Soviet Latvian Army (4.1.1919) / **Fifteenth Army** (7.6.1919 – 26 .12.1920), Latvia and Petrograd province. 1 Latvian, Special Internationalist / 2 Latvian, 2 Novgorod RDs, 6 & 11 RDs (Marienburg Group); Lithuanian 4, 11, 17, 19, 53, 10, 56, 5, 6, 12, 18, 29, 21 & 15 RDs.

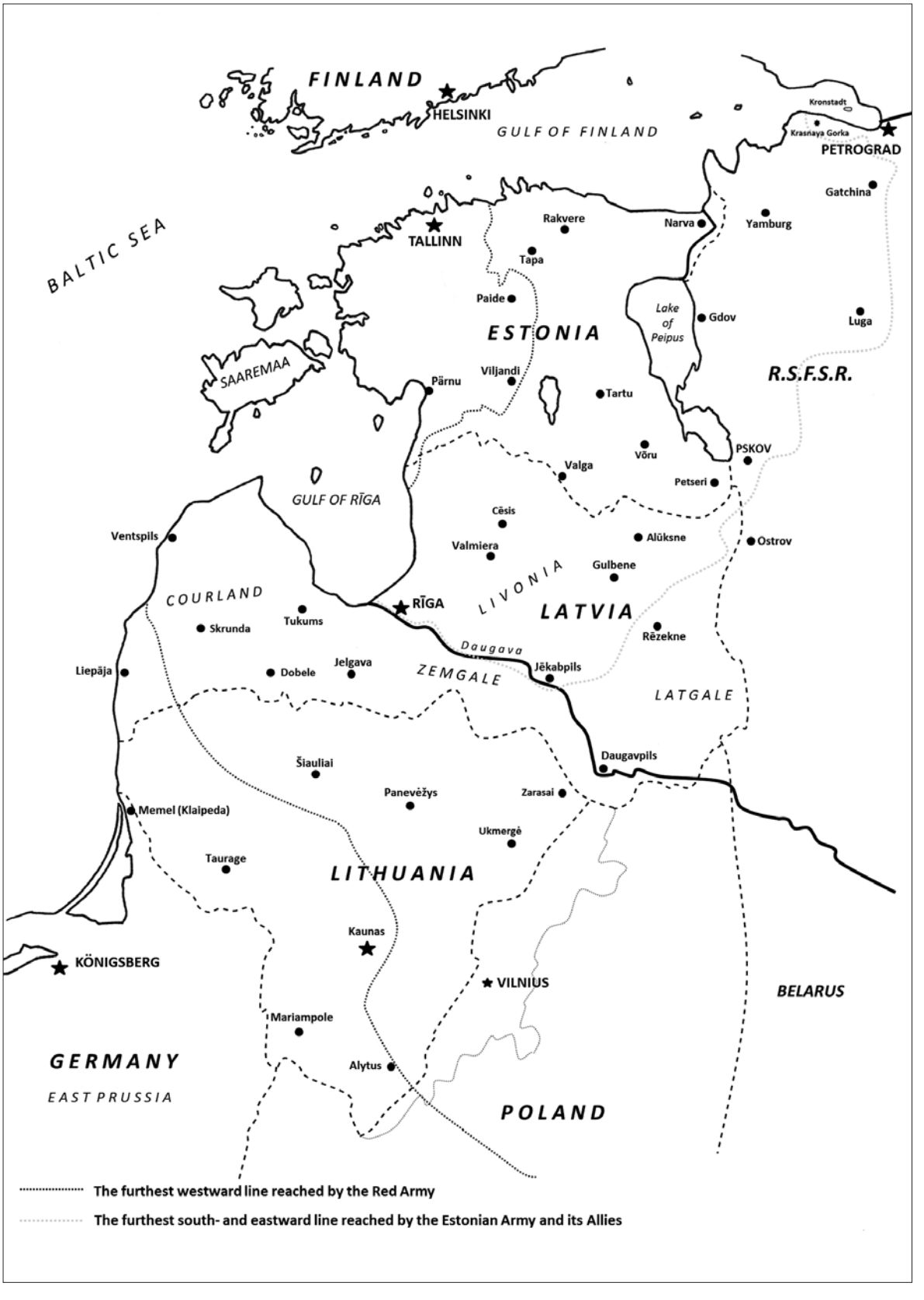
Western Military District (11.9.1918) / **Western Army** (15.11.1918) / **Lithuanian Belorussian Red Army** (13.3.1919) / **Sixteenth Army** (9.6.1919 – 7.5.1921), Lithuania. Pskov / Lithuanian, Internationalist, 17, 8, 53, 10, 29, 21 & 2 RDs.

Lithuanian Belorussian Army (13.3.1919 – 9.7.1919), Lithuania. 2 Border, 8, 17 & 53 RDs.

Unable to win a two-front war against both the Whites and the Central Powers, Lenin agreed an armistice with the Central Powers on 15 Dec 1917, followed on 3 March 1918 by the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. This bought peace at the cost of ceding large tracts of western Russia, including the Baltic region, to Germany and Austro-Hungary. The armistice of 11 Nov 1918 on the Western Front demanded that the German Imperial Army retreat immediately to its national borders, except for in the East, where it should garrison the Baltic region until a future date (actually 10 June 1919) when the three newly independent Baltic states would be strong enough to resist a Bolshevik attack. However, on 13 Nov 1918 Lenin renounced the Treaty and ordered the Red Army to spread the communist revolution, beginning with an attack on Estonia on 28 November.

The ensuing conflict from 7 Nov 1918 to 25 Oct 1922 is usually referred to as the Russian Civil War, but the Red-White war for control of Russia was a frame for many other struggles – both Russia and Germany were seeking to regain regional supremacy, nationalist armies were fighting for independence, pro-Bolshevik forces attempted to create national communist states, and independent 'warlord' armies exploited the chaos. The Western Allies were active bystanders, regularly intervening to prevent communist Russia from dominating Europe.

OPPOSITE
An Estonian teenage volunteer in an Independent Student Company, wearing the mixed military-civilian clothing of the Dec1918–Jan 1919 period of the Estonian Independence War. His German helmet displays the national cap cockade printed on a white cloth band suspended between rivet-holes, his turned-sheepskin peasant's coat has home-made shoulder straps, and he wears dark grey military trousers and puttees. He carries a Russian khaki canvas bandolier with clips for his M1891 7.62mm Mosin-Nagant Dragoon rifle. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)


FINLAND
HELSINKI
GULF OF FINLAND
Kronstadt
Krasnaya Gorka
PETROGRAD
Gatchina
Yamburg
Narva
Rakvere
TALLINN
Tapa
BALTIC SEA
Paide
ESTONIA
Lake of Peipus
Gdov
Luga
SAAREMAA
Pärnu
Viljandi
Tartu
R.S.F.S.R.
Võru
PSKOV
Valga
Petseri
GULF OF RĪGA
Cēsis
Ventspils
Alūksne
Ostrov
Valmiera
Gulbene
LIVONIA
COURLAND
RĪGA
LATVIA
Tukums
Skrunda
Rēzekne
Daugava
Liepāja
Dobele
Jelgava
ZEMGALE
Jēkabpils
LATGALE
Daugavpils
Šiauliai
Panevėžys
Zarasai
Memel (Klaipeda)
Ukmergė
Taurage
LITHUANIA
Kaunas
KÖNIGSBERG
VILNIUS
BELARUS
Mariampole
GERMANY
EAST PRUSSIA
Alytus
POLAND
The furthest westward line reached by the Red Army
The furthest south- and eastward line reached by the Estonian Army and its Allies

RED ARMY

(Unless otherwise specified, all photos reproduced in this book are believed to date from 1919.)

This portrait taken in Riga shows a Latvian Red Rifleman, his demeanour and clothing suggesting a *Komandir* (officer-equivalent). He wears a Russian khaki peaked cap with an M1918 Red Army cap star worn according to regulation, with one point facing down, and a privately purchased coat. Latvian Red Riflemen contributed many Red Army senior officers, including Jukums Vācietis, the first RKKA C-in-C in January–March 1919. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

Organization (see Table 1)

The Workers' and Peasants' Red Army (RKKA) was the army of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR). The highest strategic formation was the Front, controlling combined-arms Armies, each Army composed of infantry 'rifle' divisions (RDs) usually 8–10,000 strong. There were also three temporary groups of divisions: Pskov Group (Estonian RB and 10th RD); Marienburg Group (6th & 11th RDs); and Latvia Army Group (Latvian Soviet RD). On 12 Dec 1918 the Western Front was established for the Baltic campaign. Some formations had Baltic national designations, but all were controlled by Red Army High Command, the *Stavka*. By mid-1919 it was clear that Lenin's confidence in these 'nationalist-communist' armies was misplaced, and their divisions were given standard Red Army sequential numbers. (For a fuller treatment of Red Army organization, uniforms and insignia than is possible here, see MAA 497, *Armies of the Russo-Polish War 1919–21*.)

THE RED ARMY'S BALTIC CAMPAIGNS

Estonian War of Independence, 28 Nov 1918–2 Feb 1920

The Seventh Army (HQ Petrograd) was the most important Red Army formation in this war, its mission being to occupy Tallinn, Riga, and eventually Königsberg in NE Germany. The 6th RD (including the Red Estonian RR) was forced back from Narva on 22 Nov 1918, but took the town on 28 Nov, and on 24 Dec occupied Tapa railway junction 44 miles from Tallinn. The Latvian Soviet RD took Tartu, Estonia's second city, on 22 Dec, and 2nd Novgorod RD attacked SW Estonia on 24 December. By Jan 1919 Seventh Army controlled half of Estonia, but an Estonian counterattack on 7 Jan forced the Bolsheviks from Narva on 18 Jan and all Estonia by 4 Feb, even prompting the Red Army 86th Regt to desert to the Estonians.

In February, Seventh Army attacked Narva and southern Estonia once again, but was forced back into western Russia by 29 March. On 13 May the Estonians and White Russians destroyed 6th RD at Narva, the Estonians took Pskov on 25 May, and the combined forces drove Seventh Army towards Petrograd until the front stabilized on the Narva-Peipus and Luga-Saba river lines. There was a pause for peace discussions until 28 Sept 1919, when White Russian forces, reluctantly supported by Estonians, advanced to within 10 miles of Petrograd, only to be thrown back to the Narva River in October. Seventh Army attacked Estonian positions on the Luga River

OPPOSITE:
Baltic Region, 1920
Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania occupy the eastern Baltic seaboard, with Russia and Belarus to the east, Poland and (until 1945) Germany to the south. Demographics in 1920 were as follows:
Estonia Area 18,359 sq/miles. Population approx 1.1 million, of which 90 per cent Estonian (a Finno-Ugric ethnic group related to the Finns); 4 per cent Russian; 3 per cent Baltic German.
Latvia Area 24,930 sq/miles. Population approx 1.7 million, of which 73 per cent Latvian, comprising Finno-Ugric Livonians and four Eastern Baltic ethnic groups in Courland (Kurzeme) in western Latvia, Zemgale in the south, Livonia (Vidzeme) in the north and Latgale in the east. There were also 10 per cent Russians, mainly in Latgale, and 6 per cent Baltic Germans.
Lithuania Area 25,200 sq/miles. Population approx 2 million, of which 89 per cent Lithuanian (part of the Eastern Baltic group).

from 16 Nov to 7 Dec 1919, but halted operations on 3 Jan 1920 when an armistice came into effect.

On 29 Nov 1918 the communist Estonian Workers' Commune was established in Narva, ready to govern Estonia when Seventh Army had occupied it. The **Estonian Red Army** (**Eesti Punaarmee**) was formed on 18 Feb 1919 with Pskov and Marienburg Groups, including 1st Estonian RD. It joined the Red Army offensive in Feb 1919, and by 15 March had captured Alūksne (N Latvia) and Setomaa, Vastseliina and Räpina (S Estonia), but by 29 March had been forced past Petseri into Russia. On 24 May the 1st Estonian RD was smashed at Petseri, and its commander and 1st Communist RR deserted to the Estonian Army. The division was reorganized on 9 June as a Rifle Bde, expanding to a division on 5 October. It transferred to Ukraine, fighting Gen Denikin's Volunteer Army and Nestor Makno's anarchist 'Green Army'. The Estonian Div disbanded on 14 March 1920 after the Treaty of Tartu.

Latvian War of Independence, 1 Dec 1918–11 Aug 1920

Hostilities commenced on 1 Dec 1918 when the Latvian Army Group (including Latvian Soviet RD) invaded Latvia, 2nd and 3rd RRs capturing Daugavpils while 1st, 4th and 6th RRs advanced from Pskov through SE Estonia, S Livonia and E Latvia, taking Riga on 3 Jan 1919. Meanwhile, the Latvian Socialist Soviet Republic (LSPR) was proclaimed on 17 Dec 1918 on occupied Latvian territory. On 4 Jan 1919 Latvian Army Group expanded to form the LSPR's armed forces: this **Soviet Latvian Army** (**LSA**) had 18 RDs (numbered 2 Novgorod, 4–6, 10–12, 15, 17–19, 21, 29, 53, 56, 1 Latvian Soviet, Lithuanian, and Special Internationalist / 2 Latvian Soviet). By 31 Jan 1919 the LSA had occupied all of Latvia except Liepāja and SW Courland along the Venta River line.

On 3 March 1919 Latvian and German forces counterattacked; the LSA was forced out of Saldus and Courland on 10 March, Tukums (15 March) and Jelgava (18 March). German forces captured Riga on 22 May and Cēsis

A

RUSSIAN WORKERS' & PEASANTS' RED ARMY, 1918–1919

Note: For description of Red Army uniforms and table of rank insignia, see MAA 497, *Armies of the Russo-Polish War 1919–21*, pages 35–45.

(1) *Kommissar*, 6th Rifle Division; Tapa, December 1918

This Political Officer attached to an RKKA unit wears the Imperial Army M1907 cavalry (with chinstrap) peaked field-service cap, with an M1918 Red Army cap-star showing a gold hammer and plough. His M1912 black leather jacket, as worn by vehicle drivers in the Great War, and the commissar's red-and-gold left sleeve star, would both earn him the fearful respect of the troops. He wears an officer's M1912 leather waistbelt and crossbrace, leather-reinforced breeches with riding boots, and carries a C96 Mauser 7.63mm pistol in a wooden holster-stock.

(2) *Otdelyonnyi komandir*, 1st Red Rifle Division, Estonian Red Army; Pskov, May 1919

To suggest an illusory independence, 'Red Estonians' wore a light greenish-khaki uniform made from cloth captured at Narva on 28 Nov 1918. This corporal-equivalent section commander wears a slouch hat with a red braid band and bow but no cap badge; a field-shirt with a sailor's collar with red braid edging; breeches with red side-stripes, and riding boots. Above his left cuff he displays a red star badge and one rank triangle, and on the left shoulder-brace of his belt equipment the M1918 Red Army membership breast badge – a red enamel star bearing a gold hammer and plough in a silver wreath. He carries a Nagant M1895 7.62mm revolver in a reversed cavalry holster on the right hip, an M1909 Life Guard light cavalry sabre in a steel scabbard, and an officer's map case.

(3) *Krasnoarmeets*, Latvian Soviet Army; Latgale, May 1919

The Latvian Soviet Army wore Russian M1910 uniforms, stripped of insignia. This private ('Red Army man') of an infantry machine-gun unit wears an M1907 cap with a fashionably crushed crown, and a brass Imperial Army machine-gun badge (originally worn on the shoulder straps) as a cap badge. His field-shirt bears an M1917 Latvian Rifles badge: a gold and red enamel star, above a red cockade with a diagonal gold sword, on a gold 'sunburst'. He has an M1915 khaki canvas backpack with tied cloth supporting straps, an M1915 6-pouch leather bandolier at his waist, and a water bottle with tin cup. His rifle is a 7.62mm Mosin-Nagant M1891 with a long cruciform socket-bayonet (habitually carried fixed) – the weapon of most soldiers illustrated in these plates.

1
2
3

Members of an Estonian Red Army artillery battery, providing an interesting variety of uniform. The man at top left (compare with Plate A2) is wearing the distinctive slouch hat, and a naval-style shirt-tunic with red enamel RKKA membership badge. (Front) the seated men both have their Red Army *gymnastiorka* collars tucked inside to imitate their comrade's open collar; the man seated left has attached an RKKA artillery badge to his peaked cap, while his comrade (top right) wears the regulation M1918 star. All wear breeches and riding boots. (Estonian State Archive)

on 3 June, forcing the LSA eastwards into Latgale. On 7 July the defeated LSA was redesignated Fifteenth Army. On 3 Jan 1920 Latvian and Polish forces took Daugavpils, expelling Fifteenth Army from Latvia. The Russians dissolved the discredited LSPR and signed an armistice with Latvia on 1 Feb 1920. The Latvian Independence War ended with the Treaty of Riga, signed 11 Aug 1920.

Lithuanian–Bolshevik War, 12 Dec 1918–12 July 1920

Lithuanian historians distinguish three Lithuanian wars for independence: Lithuanian–Bolshevik/Soviet, Bermontian, and Polish–Lithuanian (see also below under 'Lithuania').

The Lithuanian–Bolshevik War commenced on 12 Dec 1918 when Russian Western Army's 17th, International and Pskov RDs, about 20,000 strong, invaded N Lithuania from Belarus, routing Saxon and Lithuanian forces. The Western Army, eventually comprising 11 RDs (numbered 2, 2 Border, 8, 10, 17, 21, 29, 53, Lithuanian, Pskov and Special International) occupied N and

A rare photograph of an Estonian Red Army infantryman wearing a slouch hat, with his *gymnastiorka* field-shirt tucked into his trousers in Estonian style. (Estonian State Archive)

E Lithuania, two-thirds of the country, halting on the Venta River line. On 18 Jan 1919 the Russians agreed a local armistice, allowing the Germans to retain W and S Lithuania, including Kaunas, Lithuania's second city. On 7 Feb 1919 the Pskov RD began encircling Kaunas against strong resistance, but was defeated at Alytus on 14–15 February. Fearing a Russian advance into German East Prussia, Lithuanian forces counterattacked in N Lithuania in late February. The Red Army retreated from Panevėžys 19–24 March, but retook the town on 4 April.

The Lithuanian May 1919 offensive forced the Bolsheviks back to Zarasai. They counterattacked on 12 June, retaking the town and thereby retaining a corner of NE Lithuania. Sixteenth Army abandoned Zarasai on 25 Aug 1919, retreating over the Daugava River on the 28th. By 31 Aug it had lost Daugavpils (Latvia) except for the suburb of Daugavgrīva. Peace talks began in May 1920, and the Treaty of Moscow was signed on 12 July. On 14 July Russian forces captured Vilnius from the Polish Army, hoping to reinstall another puppet government, but Polish forces retook the city on 9 Oct 1920.

Lithuanian communists had proclaimed the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic (LTSR) on 16 Dec 1918. Early in 1919 the Bolsheviks merged the ineffectual LTSR with the Belarus Soviet Socialist Republic to form the Lithuanian–Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic ('Litbel'). On 13 March 1919 the Western Army (2 Border, 8, 17 & 53 RDs) formed the **Lithuanian–Belorussian Red Army**, halting the Lithuanian northern offensive on 3 April. On 25 Aug the unsuccessful 'Litbel' experiment was abandoned, its government abolished, and the Lithuanian–Belorussian Red Army re-absorbed into the Russian Sixteenth Army on 9 July 1919.

Infantryman of the Estonian National Division in winter uniform, 1918. The Russian grey fleece cap has the Russian other ranks' cockade. The M1911 privates' khaki double-breasted greatcoat with a hook-fastened fly front has a stencilled 'E' divisional shoulder-strap cypher, and he displays an armband on his left sleeve in Estonia's light blue-black-white national colours. His M1911 belt has one M1909 ammunition pouch for his 7.62mm Mosin-Nagant M1891 rifle, which, as usual, has the long socket bayonet fixed. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

ESTONIA

During World War I some 100,000 Estonians (nearly 10 per cent of the entire population) had fought in the Russian Imperial Army, losing about 10,000 killed on various fronts. On 12 Apr 1917 the Russian Provisional Government granted the Estonia and Northern Livonia governorates autonomy as the 'Estland' Governorate under a Provincial Council, and on 24 Apr the *Stavka* permitted the formation of Estonian national units in the Russian Army. Accordingly, the 1st Estonian Inf Regt was immediately organized.

German Eighth Army occupied the Saaremaa, Hiiumaa and Muhumaa islands on 21 Oct 1917, overcoming resistance from demoralized Russian units and an Estonian battalion. However, on 9 Nov the Estonian Bolshevik Soldiers' Council assumed power in Tallinn, forming a local Red Guard (*Krasnaya Gvardiya*). In opposition, the 20–30,000 strong **Estonian National Division** (***Eesti rahvusdiviis***) was formed on 6 Dec 1917 (1–4 Estonian Inf Regts, Inf Res Bn, 1 Cav Regt, 1 Arty Bde and Eng Battalion). While committed to resisting the Estonian communist regime, it had been demoralized by Bolshevik propaganda.

On 24 Feb 1918, after the Russian withdrawal but before the German invasion, the Estonian Provincial Council declared independence as the Provisional Government, and reorganized the Estonian National Division as the **1st Estonian Inf Div** (***1.***

A group of Estonian volunteers in Russian khaki winter field uniforms with Russian fleece caps or German helmets, late 1918. The NCO (front right) wears a cap cockade, anticipating the regulation M1919 pattern. The man seated right wears collar patches, suggesting a former officer of the 1st Estonian Inf Div; note also the chevron on his left sleeve, point up, in the national colours. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

Eesti Jalaväediviis) with 1–6 Inf Regts, 1 Cav Regt, 1 Arty Regt and 1 Eng Battalion. However, the next day German Eighth Army occupied Tallinn, abolishing the Estonian Provisional Government. The Germans allowed the Estonian national units to exist as neutral forces from 27 Feb, also permitting a 3,000-strong paramilitary Tallinn Self-Defence Force (*Tallinna Omakaitse*); this had been formed in Apr 1917 for internal security duties, and organized on 11 Nov 1918 as the **Estonian Defence League** (***Eesti Kaitseliit* – EK**), a civilian volunteer organization supporting the armed forces. By 4 March 1918 the Germans had overrun all of Estonia, and on 27 Apr they disarmed the 1st Division. Many Estonians joined the clandestine 'Citizens' Guard' (*Bürgerwehr*), transferring later to the EK.

Estonia was now garrisoned by the German Eighth Army and administered by local Baltic Germans who planned a United Baltic Duchy (see below, 'Germany and the Baltic'). Two days after the 11 Nov 1918 armistice on the Western Front, Lenin renounced the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk and determined to attack the Baltic States as a prelude to invading Poland and Germany. The Estonian Government formed the **Estonian People's Army** (***Eesti rahvavägi***) on 18 Nov, and proclaimed national mobilization on 21 Nov to meet an imminent Bolshevik invasion.

ESTONIAN PEOPLE'S ARMY

Organization (see Table 2)

The Estonian armed forces comprised the Estonian People's Army including an embryonic Air Service, and the Estonian Navy (*Eesti Merevägi*), formed 21 Nov 1918. The civilian EK provided recruits and reserves.

Table 2: Battle order of Estonian armed forces, 28 November 1918–2 February 1920

Higher formations: 1 Div, 2 Div, 3 Div, Armd Train Div.

Infantry: 1 Inf Regt (Tallinn); 2 Inf Regt (Tartu); 3 Inf Regt (Võru); 4 Inf Regt (Narva); 5 Inf Regt (Rakvere); 6 Inf Regt (Pärnu); 7 Inf Regt (Võru, Petseri), ex Järvamaa Def Bn; 8 Inf Regt, ex Tallinn & Tartu Def Bns; 9 Inf Regt, ex Pärnu Def Bn; Kalevlaste Maleva Bn / Regt; Kuperjanov Partisan Bn / Regt, ex Tartumaa Def Bn; Sakala Partisan Bn / Regt; Scouts Bn / Regt; Ingrian Regt; Baltic Bn / Regt (attached SZA); Katchanov Bn (Russ); Bułak Bałachowicz Bn / Det (Russ); Tallinn, Tartu & Viljandi Pärnu Student Bns (attached EK); Tallinn Guard Bn (attached EK); Peipus Coastal Defence Bn; 1–3 Div Res Bns.

Def (or EK) Bns: 1 Järvamaa, 1 Narva, 2 Pärnu, 1 Saaremaa, 3 Tallinn, 1 Tartu, 2 Viljandi, 1 Võru (total 12 bns). Formed from EK personnel to Estonian Army; disbanded by July 1919, or incorporated into Inf units.

Cavalry: 1–2 Cav Regts; Indep Cav Sqn (attached EK, Tallinn); Cav Res Bn; Baltic Bn Sqn.

Artillery: 1–3 Arty Regts; 1–3 Heavy Fortress Arty Bns; 5 Indep Btys (incl. Baltic, Katchanov & Kuperjanov).

Armour: Armd Train Bn / Div: 6 broad gauge armd trains (1/*Kapten Irw* – 6); 4 narrow gauge armd trains (1–4); Mtd Scout Sqn; Res Bn; Armd Car Det (1 Ptn: *Estonia*, *Kalevipoeg*, *Pisuhänd*; 2 Ptn: *Toonela*, *Vahur*, *Vibuane*, *Tasuja*); *Vanapagan* (6 Inf Regt).

Engineers: Eng Bn; Flying Det.

Estonian Defence League (EK): The 11 counties (Harjumaa, Järvamaa, Läänemaa, Saaremaa, Pärnumaa, Petserimaa, Tartumaa, Valgamaa, Viljandimaa, Virumaa, Võrumaa) each had internal security organization; some Army Res units in the cities were subordinated to the EK.

Navy: Baltic Naval Sqn; Peipus Naval Sqn; Minesweeper Sqn; Naval Landing Bn; Peipus Sqn Naval Landing Co; Aegna, Naissaar & Suurupi Coastal Commands (established without assets).
2 destroyers (*Lennuk*, *Vambola*); 3 minesweepers (*Kalev*, *Kotka* & *Olev*); 9 gunboats (*Ahti*, *Lembit*, *Meeme*, *Pikker*, *Taara*, *Tartu*, *Tasuja*, *Uku*, *Vanemuine*); 6 patrol boats (*Laine*, *Lood*, *Vahur*, *Vanapagan*, *Vambola*, *Vanemuine*).

Uniforms and insignia

The Estonian National Div of Dec 1917 wore Russian Imperial Army uniforms, but attempts were made to introduce national insignia. Officers wore silver-braid shoulder straps with gilt metal rank stars and unit numbers, black edge-piping and blue centre-stripes. NCOs and men had khaki or blue shoulder straps (with wide silver and narrow white braid for senior and junior NCOs respectively), and a large 'E' with unit numbers. However, rank insignia was soon generally banned by the Bolshevik regime.

A provisional **M1918 uniform** was introduced in Dec 1918, comprising the Russian khaki field uniform with an M1918 national (white-blue-black) cockade in a silver 5-point cap badge (mistakable at a distance for the Red Army cap star), or white cloth bands with a printed cockade when the badge was not available. Officers were prescribed a national-colours cloth cuff triangle, other ranks a national-colours sleeve square. Estonian National Div *pogoni* braid shoulder straps were worn by most officers with an Estonian national-colours ribbon looped around the base, but other ranks often refused them, as hated symbols of Russian rule. Many troops wore civilian clothes or scavenged Red Army uniforms and equipment, with armbands in national colours or white with a unit stamp.

Jaan Soots, Chief of Staff of the Estonian People's Army 24 Feb 1918–1 Oct 1920, shown here as a *polkovnik* (colonel – he was promoted *kindralmajor* on 17 Sept 1919). He wears regulation M1919 officers' field uniform with a greyish-brown *French*, 2 gold metal rank stars on the white-piped black collar, and field-grade officer's shoulder straps. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

The **M1919 uniform**, inspired by that of the British Army, was introduced on 23 March 1919; it was in use at GHQ Tallinn by May and at the front by Aug, although Russian khaki uniforms were also still being worn in early 1920.

Officers' field uniform comprised a grey cloth peaked cap with cloth-covered peak, and the M1919 cap badge: an oval horizontally striped blue-over-black-over-white, in a silver 'sunray' frame. A greenish-grey or khaki *French* (the name of a Russian Imperial-style tunic) had a high stand-and-fall collar, light blue shoulder straps, four external buttoned pockets, sewn-in cuffs with a buttoned cuff strap, and a khaki buttoned rear half-belt. It was worn with dark grey breeches and black riding boots. Other ranks wore a grey cloth peaked cap; a greenish-grey *French* with a low stand-and-fall collar, also with half-belt and pocket-flap buttons; matching straight trousers, puttees, and black ankle boots. 1st Cav Regt unofficially adopted Russian hussars' dark red breeches, piped white, which were captured in Narva, while 2nd Cav Regt had greyish-blue Russian cavalry breeches.

The khaki cotton Russian-style summer field-shirt was also worn with cotton trousers, and some ex-US Army or locally-produced shirts with one breast pocket were also used. All ranks wore the Estonian greyish-brown double-breasted greatcoat with hook fastening and five purely decorative central buttons, and cuff rank rings for officers; later an officers' double-breasted greatcoat with two rows of visible buttons was introduced. In fact, the most popular winter garment was the peasants' coat made of turned sheepskin without an outer cloth cover; an official fur coat was also introduced, worn without insignia. All ranks wore a traditional peasant-style thick grey woollen winter cap with ear-flaps and turned-up peak, and a cap badge.

The **M1919 ceremonial uniform**, worn by some GHQ officers and only widely adopted in 1920–24, comprised a dark blue peaked cap with white

OPPOSITE
Officers of the crack Kuperjanov Partisan Regt, late 1919; second row, third from left is the CO, *Leitnant* Jaan Unt. All wear M1919 field uniforms, with a mixture of *French* tunics and Russian field-shirts; note the skull-and-crossbones badge and/or national cockade on the caps, and the unit's similar sleeve badge – which is clearer in the photo on page 24. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

A *vanem allohvitser* of the Sakala Partisan Regt, wearing a Russian field cap with an Estonian cockade. This sergeant's first-pattern other ranks' *French* tunic, without visible buttons on the pocket flaps, bears 2 silver rank stars of non-regulation 6-point type on the collar, but regulation NCO's shoulder straps. Note the regimental sleeve-badge: a white sword, soldier's head and skull on a black pentagram piped white. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

piping, black band and silver chin cords; a grey service tunic; and blue breeches with red double stripes for general officers, a wide silver stripe for field-grade officers, and silver piping for subalterns, worn with black riding boots. The colourful peaked cap was so popular that the Estonian C-in-C Gen Johan Laidoner had to ban its use in the front line.

From Nov 1918 the Western Allies began selling war-surplus uniforms to the anti-Bolshevik armies in the Russian Civil War. In summer 1919 Estonia received large shipments of uniforms from Great Britain and the USA (some of the former reportedly showing bloodstains and bullet holes, after being hastily stripped from British wounded). Smaller shipments of French khaki uniforms also arrived.

B

ESTONIAN PEOPLE'S ARMY, 1918–1919

(1) *Noorem allovitser*, 1st Cavalry Regiment; Paide, northern Estonia, January 1919

This corporal wears the Russian M1907 khaki NCO's cap with a chinstrap (infantry had no chinstraps) with an M1918 Estonian pentangular cockade. The long M1909 Russian cavalry NCO's greatcoat has a separate hood; six central brass Tsarist eagle-pattern buttons, and buttons on khaki field collar patches; M1917 shoulder straps with 2 white braid rank bars, white wreathed 'E' over '1' Estonian National Div cyphers, and around the base a loop in Estonian national colours. He carries a binoculars case, water bottle and cup; over his left shoulder a 6-pouch M1915 khaki canvas bandolier for his M1891 7.62mm Mosin-Nagant cavalry carbine, and under his left armpit a reserve bandolier. The carbine bayonet is attached to the outer face of his M1881 dragoon sabre scabbard.

(2) *Juunior*, Independent Student Company; Tallinn, January 1919

High-school students aged 16 and above were mobilized into independent companies as student-soldiers, unofficially called *õppursõdur*, later *juunior*. This boy wears the Russian M1910 grey artificial lambskin cap, with a printed Estonian cockade on a white cloth ribbon. The Russian M1911 brownish-grey private's greatcoat, probably stripped from a dead enemy, is worn over a khaki field-shirt, trousers and puttees. His belt buckle has his school initials 'V. G.' in Cyrillic – all high-school and university students in the Russian Empire wore uniform. He carries the unpopular M1905 6.5mm Japanese Type 30 Arisaka rifle and its long bayonet, and again a six-pouch canvas bandolier.

(3) *Reamees*, No. 2 Armoured Train; Petseri, March 1919

Armoured train and armoured car crew volunteers often wore uniform items mixed with civilian clothing. This private's German M1916 helmet, with a national cockade on a white cloth ribbon tied between two rivet-holes, was individually acquired from German troops – armoured trains attracted artillery fire. His train number '*No. 2 Soomusrong*' is stencilled in black on the off-white armband on the left sleeve of the short sheepskin farmer's coat, which he wears with civilian trousers. His equipment comprises the same pair of bandoliers as B1, a leather ammunition pouch, two German M1917 stick-grenades, and a water bottle. The 7.62mm M1907 Mosin-Nagant carbine had a barrel almost a foot shorter than the infantry rifle, a simpler sight, and no bayonet.

(4) *Kapteeni*, Finnish Northern Sons Regiment; Narva, January 1919

This captain wears the field-grey Finnish uniform introduced on 15 July 1918, with a Swedish M1910 lambswool cap (much used by Finnish officers, who called them 'Mannerheim caps'); it bears the Estonian M1918 pentangular cockade instead of a red-and-yellow Finnish cockade. His greyish-green high-collar field tunic has silver collar rank stars (NCOs wore shoulder-strap bars); over it he wears a short sheepskin-lined coat, with the regiment's 'polar bear face' shield badge on the left upper sleeve. He carries a Nagant M1895 7.62mm revolver in a cavalry holster; many Finns also carried their national *puukko* hunting knife. The field sign of the other national contingent, the 1st Finnish Volunteer Unit, was a white-over-blue armband on the left sleeve.

1
2
3
4
B.E.
№ 2 Soom

Armoured car crews with a car captured from the Red Army by Finnish volunteers and transferred to Estonian service; they wear peaked caps, greatcoats or civilian fleece coats. The *alamkapten* (front, fourth left) displays three M1919 silver cuff rings on his greatcoat sleeves. Several men have narrow white cloth armbands on the left upper sleeve, with '*Soomusauto / Pisuhänd*' ('Armoured Car/ Hobgoblin') in black print. The car's commander *Leitnant* Lindemann was killed in June 1919. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

Rank insignia (see Table 7, page 62)

M1919 rank titles were an Estonian version of the Russian Imperial system. There were three types of M1919 insignia: collar stars on the tunic, indicating exact rank; shoulder straps with varying pipings and stripes worn on the tunic and greatcoat, identifying the rank-group; and braid rank rings with a naval 'curl' in the top one, above greatcoat cuffs. General officers wore 2–1 medium gold rings; field officers, 2–1 narrow gold rings; subalterns, 4–0 very narrow silver rings; NCO acting lieutenant, no rings; NCOs and soldiers, 4–0 very narrow blue rings. Khaki braid rings were officially prescribed for field use.

Also following the Russian system, Estonian military officials were administrators, bandmasters, doctors, lawyers, pharmacists, supply and workshop supervisors or other professionals, occupying officer posts but without officer training. Until 25 June 1920 there were six ranks of military official (*sõjaväe ametnik*), each with several alternative departmental titles, wearing officers' uniforms without shoulder straps but with special insignia on the officers' black collars piped with white. For example, the Army Central Directorate wore: 2 gold zigzags = chief, Army Central Directorate (Col equivalent); 1 gold zigzag = deputy chief (LtCol); silver-gold-silver bars = section chief (Capt); 2 silver bars = dep section chief (Jr Capt); 1 silver bar = depot assistant (Lt); no insignia = dep official (NCO acting lieutenant).

In **March 1920** plain pointed uniform-colour shoulder straps were introduced, with 3–1 gold 6-point stars identifying generals', field officers' and subalterns' rank-groups, but these did not entirely replace the blue shoulder straps until 1924. The greatcoat cuff ranking was abolished.

Branch & unit distinctions

The M1919 uniform introduced on the left upper sleeve ten different blue 'heraldic-shaped' shields with black inner and white outer edging, bearing

white branch badges as follows: Staff = 3 'lions passant'; Inf = crossed rifles; Arty = crossed cannons; Cav = crossed sabres on vertical lance; Eng = crossed spade & axe; Motor Transport = winged wheel & steering wheel; Sigs = crossed lightning bolts; Medical = red cross edged white; Chaplains = white cross; Air Service = winged propeller.

Regiments and battalions might design their own insignia, which received unofficial approval. The four élite Independent bns/regts wore:
Scouts = silver (officers') or copper (other ranks') shield with elk's head as cap badge, and matching cloth sleeve badge.
Kalevlaste Malev = national-colours cloth shield-and-chevrons sleeve badge.
Kuperjanov Partisan = white metal skull-and-crossbones on black cloth backing as cap badge, and on black sleeve shield piped white, plus black M1919 shoulder straps for *kapten–lipnik* ranks.
Sakala Partisan = white sword, soldier's head & skull on black pentagram piped white, plus black M1919 shoulder straps (*kapten–lipnik* ranks).

Locally-produced armoured train badges did exist, but most personnel wore white armbands with '*Soomusrong*' ('armoured train') and a name or number in black Latin script, while armoured car platoons wore armbands with '*Soomusauto*' ('armoured car') and an individual car name.

A purposeful-looking *vanem allohvitser* from Armoured Train No. 1 in regulation M1919 uniform, autumn 1919: grey cap, greyish-brown *French*, dark grey trousers, Russian riding boots and M1912 belt. His collar shows 2 non-regulation 6-point rank stars; the wide off-white armband (i.e. white cloth, but unbleached) is printed in black with '*Soomusrong Nr 1*'. The dragoon sabre is probably a photographic studio prop. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

Equipment and weapons

Equipment, if any, comprised Russian brown leather items (though these were scarce); canvas rifle ammunition pouches on the waist belt and/or as a bandolier; and a canvas haversack. Armoured train crews wore privately-purchased German M1916 steel helmets for protection in artillery duels, but infantrymen rejected them as an unnecessary burden. However, large numbers of British Mk I helmets were introduced in mid-1919, followed later that year by obsolete British leather equipment.

The most common rifle was the standard Russian 7.62mm Mosin-Nagant M1891, followed by the artillery carbine version. Some British/Canadian Ross-Enfield .303in rifles were issued, but the EK mostly received the unpopular Japanese 6.5mm Arisaka Type 35. The British Lewis M1915 .303in and Danish Madsen M1904 8mm light machine guns were standard issue, as was the Russian M1910 Maxim-Nordenfeld 7.92mm heavy machine gun on the Sokolov wheeled carriage.

ESTONIA'S ALLIES

General Laidoner's order that foreign volunteers could choose national or Estonian insignia is reflected in contemporary photographs; volunteers usually display their national or Estonian cap badges, sometimes both.

Baltic Germans

Baltic German students from Rakvere and Tartu who joined the Estonian 1st and 2nd Divs from 27 Nov 1918 and 1 Jan 1919 were reorganized into the Baltic Bn (*Baltische Bataillon*) by Col Constantin von Weiß. This unit liberated Narva on 18 Jan 1919 under Estonian 1st Div, before defending the Narva River line and Lake Peipus, and capturing Gdov on 29 May. In May 1919 the Baltic Bn was expanded to form the Volunteer Baltic Regt (*Freiwilliges Baltenregiment*), with an Inf Bn, Cav Sqn, Art Bty and other units, transferring to the operational command of White Russian Northern Corps at the request of the regimental officers. It was stationed at Yamburg, NW Russia, but on 9 Nov 1919 it fought with Estonian 1st Div on the Viru Front, NE Estonia. It disbanded in Sept 1920, with many personnel joining the Estonian Army. Members wore a mix of German, Estonian and Russian uniforms, and Russian shoulder-strap insignia for German rank titles. A black-and-white cloth chevron (point up) was worn above a white cross on the left upper sleeve.

Denmark

The Western Allies encouraged the Scandinavian countries to support the Baltic states and White Russians, but Scandinavian public opinion generally opposed fighting against the Russian 'Workers' State'. Danish

C

ESTONIAN & ALLIED FORCES, 1919

(1) *Alamleitnant*, Kuperjanov Partisan Battalion; northern Latvia, March 1919

This was considered to be the best unit in the Estonian Army; its unit distinctions were a silver skull-and-crossbones badge (inspired by that of the Russian Provisional Government's 'Death Bns') worn on the cap and as a sleeve-shield, as well as black shoulder straps – see photo on page 24. This subaltern wears the M1919 uniform with a thick grey woollen flapped winter cap inspired by Estonian farmers' traditional headgear. He wears a greyish-brown tunic, of which only the officers' white-piped black collar, with single silver rank stars, is visible under the greyish-brown greatcoat; note the single silver cuff rank ring, with a 'curl'. He wears a Russian waistbelt with crossbrace, binoculars, holstered M1895 Nagant revolver, and a map case, and carries an M1910 Mosin-Nagant 7.62mm carbine.

(2) *Kindralmajor* Johan Laidoner; Tallinn, May 1919

The Estonian C-in-C wears the M1919 uniform: grey peaked cap with oval M1919 badge; greyish-brown officers' tunic with black collar piped white, bearing one gold rank star; general officers' shoulder straps; a Staff sleeve shield, and on his right pocket his silver Russian General Staff Academy badge, but he displayed no medal ribbons in wartime. He wears officers' contrasting dark grey breeches, black riding boots with field commander's spurs, and a Russian officers' belt with the ubiquitous M1895 Nagant revolver on his right hip.

(3) *Underkorporal*, Danish Baltic Auxiliary Corps; Jekabpils, May 1919

This junior NCO wears the Danish M1915 grey uniform with collar patches removed, and a private-purchase Corps sidecap with an oval national cockade (officers' caps also bore silver point-up rank chevrons below this); in battle he would wear the British Mk 1 helmet. The infantry tunic has red piping and cuff rank chevrons; the trousers are tucked into M1903 high-laced marching boots, not rolled above the ankle as they would be when in Denmark. He wears the M1888 belt, M1906 supporting straps and ammunition pouches (German M1909 triple pouches were also used), and his M1915 grey double-breasted greatcoat is strapped to the backpack. The weapon is the usual M1891 Mosin-Nagant.

(4) *Reavanem*, Naval Landing Battalion; Koporye Bay, Ingria, May 1919

Estonian Navy personnel wore uniforms influenced by both the Russian Imperial and British Royal navies. This able seaman wears a ratings' cap with a ribbon 'tally' identifying the destroyer 'M.R. LENNUK' in gold lettering; this has a bow with two short hanging ends bearing gold anchors. The dark blue jumper has a light blue collar with 3 white tapes, and is worn over a Russian blue-and-white undershirt; these were tucked, Russian-style, into straight-cut black trousers. On the left sleeve is a blue diamond with a white anchor surrounded by 'M', 'D' and 'B' (for *Mere Dessant Pataljon* – 'Naval Landing Bn'), and below this a single gold rating chevron. His all-Russian equipment is a leather ammunition pouch, an M1914 hand grenade, and the M1891 Mosin-Nagant infantry rifle.

1
2
3
4
M.R. LENNUK

A *lipnik* (ensign) of Estonian artillery, showing the blue arm-of-service sleeve shield edged black and white and bearing white crossed cannons. His officer's *French* with buttoned pocket-flaps has a white-piped black collar, but, instead of light blue shoulder straps, obsolete Estonian National Division silver-braid straps with black edge-piping and a blue centre-stripe. This rank wore no stars on the collar. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

Capt Iver de Hammer formed the volunteer Danish-Baltic Auxiliary Corps (*Dansk-Baltisk Auxiliær Corps*) on 28 March 1919, but Estonia's success against the Red Army meant that only one company, *Compagnie Borgelin* of 215 men under Capt Richard Borgelin, actually reached Estonia. The Danes performed well, advancing 120 miles from Võru (Estonia) to the Daugava River (Latvia) in May–June 1919, but suffered casualties in July when manning the Ostrov–Porkhov line in Pskov province. The company disbanded on 1 Sept and returned to Denmark. Troops wore Danish Army M1915 grey uniforms and insignia, with a non-regulation sidecap (which would become Danish Army general issue in 1923).

Finland

Finland sent two volunteer units to fight in Estonia under Finnish *Kenraalimajuri* (MajGen) Martin Wetzer, until the Red Army had been

expelled. The 1,550-strong 1st Finnish Volunteer Unit (*I Suomalainen Vapaajoukko*) was formed in Dec 1918 under *Majuri* Martin Ekström; this reinforced battalion included battle-hardened and fiercely anti-Russian veterans of the Finnish Civil War, but a large number of volunteers were young, even minors, and a third of the unit comprised Swedish-minority Finns. It fought as an independent unit on the Northern Front, inspiring the Estonians and encountering Finnish Red Guards serving in the Russian Seventh Army. It helped recapture Rakvere on 12 Jan 1919, and made an amphibious landing on 17–20 Jan at Utriua which led to the occupation of Narva on the 18th. Their contracts completed, the Finns returned home in late March 1919.

The 2,200-strong 'Northern Sons' Volunteer Unit was formed in Jan 1919 and later expanded to a regt with two Inf Bns and an Arty Bn, commanded by *Eversti* (Col) Hans Kalm, an Estonian officer in the Finnish Army. The regt disembarked in Tallinn on 12 Jan 1919, transferring to Tartu; it captured Valga on 1 Feb and Petseri in late March. With Estonia liberated, the regt was disbanded on 29 May 1919.

A *juunior* (Estonian student-soldier) wearing M1919 uniform with a grey cap; note the M1919 oval cockade, with horizontal stripes of the national colours set in silver 'sunray' edging. Under magnification, his student-soldier status is indicated by a green fir tree stencilled on his light blue shoulder straps. Single silver collar stars, and white shoulder-strap piping and wavy chevron, identify his rank as *noorem allohvitser* or corporal. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

Great Britain

In Jan 1919 the Royal Navy's 1st Light Cruiser Sqn, commanded by R.Adm Walter Cowan, sailed to the Baltic under Operation 'Red Trek', to protect the Finnish and Baltic coasts from the Red Navy's Baltic Fleet and to occupy Kronstadt port on behalf of White Russian forces. They were soon reinforced by 6th Light Cruiser Sqn and 1st, 2nd and 4th Destroyer Flotillas, totalling 238 vessels (and supported by 42 French, US and Italian warships). On 18 Aug 1919 seven RN torpedo boats attacked Kronstadt, seriously damaging ships of the Baltic Fleet and sinking the flagship, the battleship *Petropavlovsk*. Although they failed to capture Kronstadt, and landed no troops, the British contribution had a crucial effect on the course of the war; they supplied weapons and equipment, and protected Tallinn from attacks by the Baltic Fleet.

A *leitnant* of the élite Kuperjanov Partisan Bn; the unit became a regiment in November 1919. This is an example of a carefully customized officer's uniform. Below the 'crushed' crown of his Russian peaked cap, the officers' chinstrap partly obscures the unit's silver skull-and-crossbones badge. His *French* has 2 silver rank stars on the collar, and the unit's black shoulder straps, with silver edge-piping and centre-stripe, bear the unofficial Russian 'K' cypher for 'Kuperjanov'. On the upper left sleeve note the unit's skull-and-crossbones shield patch, and above the cuff 3 gold officers' wound-bars. His Imperial Russian medals are the Order of St Anne with Swords (left) and Order of St Stanislav with Swords. The unit's death's-head badge was designed in Jan 1919 by the legendary first commander, *Leitnant* Julius Kuperjanov, who died of wounds after leading an attack at the battle of Paju Estate on 2 Feb 1919, aged 24. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

Ingria

Ingria was a district in Petrograd province between Estonia and Petrograd, populated by Finno-Ugric Ingrians closely related ethnically to the Finns. In March 1919, at the request of the Ingrian National Committee, the Estonian People's Army formed a 700-strong Ingrian Bn, soon expanded to a 2,000-strong regt under the Finnish *Kapteeni* (Capt) E. Pekkanen and a Finnish officer cadre, which fought on the Northern Front. Estonia's White Russian allies regarded this as undermining Russian interests, by allowing a national minority involvement in international politics. The unit transferred to White Russian operational

Three privates of the élite Scouts Regt, wearing British Army surplus khaki uniforms. The caps display the Estonian cockade above the copper other ranks' pattern of the unit's shield badge showing an elk's head, but they have not yet been issued the regimental sleeve-badge. Note the different belts, and the marching boots worn by the right-hand man instead of puttees. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

command in autumn 1919, but the Ingrians were harshly treated and the Finnish officers openly disliked the Russians. In Nov 1919 Gen Yudenich attempted to disband the Ingrian Regt, but the Estonian C-in-C *Kindralmajor* Laidoner insisted that their weapons be returned. Meanwhile the Red Army reoccupied Ingria; after its defeat the unit's personnel dispersed or retreated to Estonia, where they helped defend Narva. The Ingrian Regt was officially disbanded on 2 Feb 1920. Troops wore Estonian uniforms and insignia with the Ingrian coat-of-arms on the upper left sleeve: an orange shield with a diagonal blue bar with red crenellated 'brick wall' edging.

A group of artillery officers, 1920. The *lipnik* (standing left) and *kapten* (seated left) wear Estonian M1919 uniform; note the branch badge on the latter's left sleeve. The other three have British Army officers' open-collar khaki tunics, with their rank stars pinned directly to the collars, and the single large M1920 shoulder-strap star for all subaltern ranks. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

Sweden

Major Carl Axel Mothander, a Swedish Army reserve officer and Finnish Civil War veteran of the White Army, formed the 178-strong Swedish volunteer detachment (*Svenska kåren i Estland*) in early 1919. The Swedes fought for a short period, including at Viru in March 1919 and Petseri in April, but on 17 May the unit, reduced to just 68 men, was disbanded; some soldiers transferred to the White Russian Northern Corps, and individual officers to the Estonian Army. Personnel wore the grey Swedish M1910 uniform, with officers choosing either Swedish or Estonian insignia.

ESTONIAN INDEPENDENCE WAR, 22 NOV 1918–2 FEB 1920

Despite having the smallest population, Estonia proved to be the most successful combatant in the Baltic Independence Wars, bearing the brunt of the Red Army's attacks. Initially fighting took place on the Viru Front (N Estonia and Petrograd province, NW Russia), and the Southern Front (central and southern Estonia).

The great retreat, Nov–Dec 1918

On 22 Nov 1918 the Red Army attacked the frontier town of Narva, but was forced back by Estonian 4th Inf Regt (HQ Narva), Viru County EK, and the German 405th Inf Regt. After the Germans evacuated, the poorly armed Estonian garrison was forced to retreat on 28 Nov to avoid being outflanked by a Russian coastal landing at Narva-Jõesuu. Estonian forces, including 1st Inf Regt (Tallinn), 5th Inf Regt (Rakvere), Armd Train No.2 and some artillery, organized on 21 Nov into 1st Div, were forced back along the coast throughout Dec, losing Rakvere and Tapa rail junction but holding Tallinn and, further inland, Paide. As the Estonians retreated on the Southern Front in Dec they formed 2nd Inf Regt (Tartu), 3rd Inf Regt (Võru), 6th Inf Regt (Pärnu) and the Kuperjanov Partisan Bn, organizing them on 23 Dec into the 2nd Division. Meanwhile, their White Russian allies abandoned their HQ at Pskov on 26 Nov, and the Estonians lost Valga on 18 Dec and Tartu on the 22nd. Demoralized troops were retreating on all fronts, and by the end of Dec 1918 half of Estonia was under Red Army control.

Kindralmajor Johan Laidoner, C-in-C of the Estonian People's Army, photographed in early 1920 (compare with Plate C2). He wears the M1919 khaki *French* with one gold rank star on his black collar, and a general officer's three large M1920 gold stars on his shoulder straps. He displays his wartime Estonian and foreign medals, and on his right breast pocket the silver badge for graduation from the Russian General Staff Academy. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

Reorganization and counterattack, Nov 1918–Feb 1919

General Laidoner formed new units to defend Tallinn and reinforce the divisional positions, including 7th Inf Regt (21 Nov 1918), 8th Inf Regt (22 Dec), and 9th Inf Regt (4 May 1919). Encouraged, Estonian troops seized heavy equipment and weapons from German garrisons, and built improvised armoured trains, bulletproofed with sandbags and trench-shields and armed with heavy machine guns and field guns. Supplies from Great Britain and Finland allowed Estonia to halt the Red Army's advance, and on 17 Dec 1918 an Estonian communist revolt in Tallinn failed.

A reconnaissance detachment of Armoured Train No 5 in front of its *Tasuja* ('Avenger') gun-platform, early 1920. All wear German helmets, M1919 Estonian double-breasted greatcoats with 'Armoured Train' left armbands and bandoliers, and carry rifles. The four officers (seated, middle) wear grey caps and greatcoats with subalterns' shoulder straps, and the *leitnant* (left centre) still wears M1919 silver cuff rings. British Lewis .303in (left) and Danish Madsen 8mm M1904 light machine guns are displayed in front, with spare magazine containers. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

From 2 to 7 Jan 1919 the Estonian Army, numbering only 4,800 men, successfully resisted Red Army attacks on both fronts. On 7 Jan, 1st Div – supported by the Finnish 1st Vol Unit, the increasingly effective armoured trains, and the Estonian Navy with its two destroyers, *Lennuk* and *Wambola* – launched a general counter-offensive on the Viru Front. They captured Tapa with armoured trains (9 Jan), Kunda by naval infantry assault (11 Jan), Rakvere (12 Jan), Utria by a naval infantry landing supported by Finns, while the Finns and Narva students took Narva (19 January). Meanwhile on the Southern Front, Tartu was retaken by armoured trains and the Kuperjanov Partisans (14 January). The same day 2nd Div launched its offensive in southern Estonia, taking Tõrva (30 Jan), Valga (1 Feb) after the crucial battle

D

ESTONIAN PEOPLE'S ARMY, 1919–1920

(1) *Vanem allohvitser*, Kalevlaste Maleva Battalion; Cēsis, June 1919

Recruited from Kalev sports club personnel, this élite unit wore above the left elbow distinctive tricolour shield and chevron insignia. This corporal machine-gunner wears the M1919 other ranks' uniform with a British Mk 1 helmet: brownish-grey tunic with regulation collar rank stars, NCO's shoulder straps, a British M1914 leather belt, and US-supplied high laced boots. He has a cloth pouch for two spare 'pan' magazines for the British-supplied Lewis Mk 1 light machine gun, and a curved Russian M1907 *bebut* dagger, as issued to machine-gunners for self-defence. A group photo of machine-gunners of this unit also shows a mixture of British- and US-surplus uniforms, and woollen winter caps with the small Russian MG badge added above the national cockade as a mark of their status (see Plate A3).

(2) *Reamees*, Scouts Battalion; Pskov, August 1919

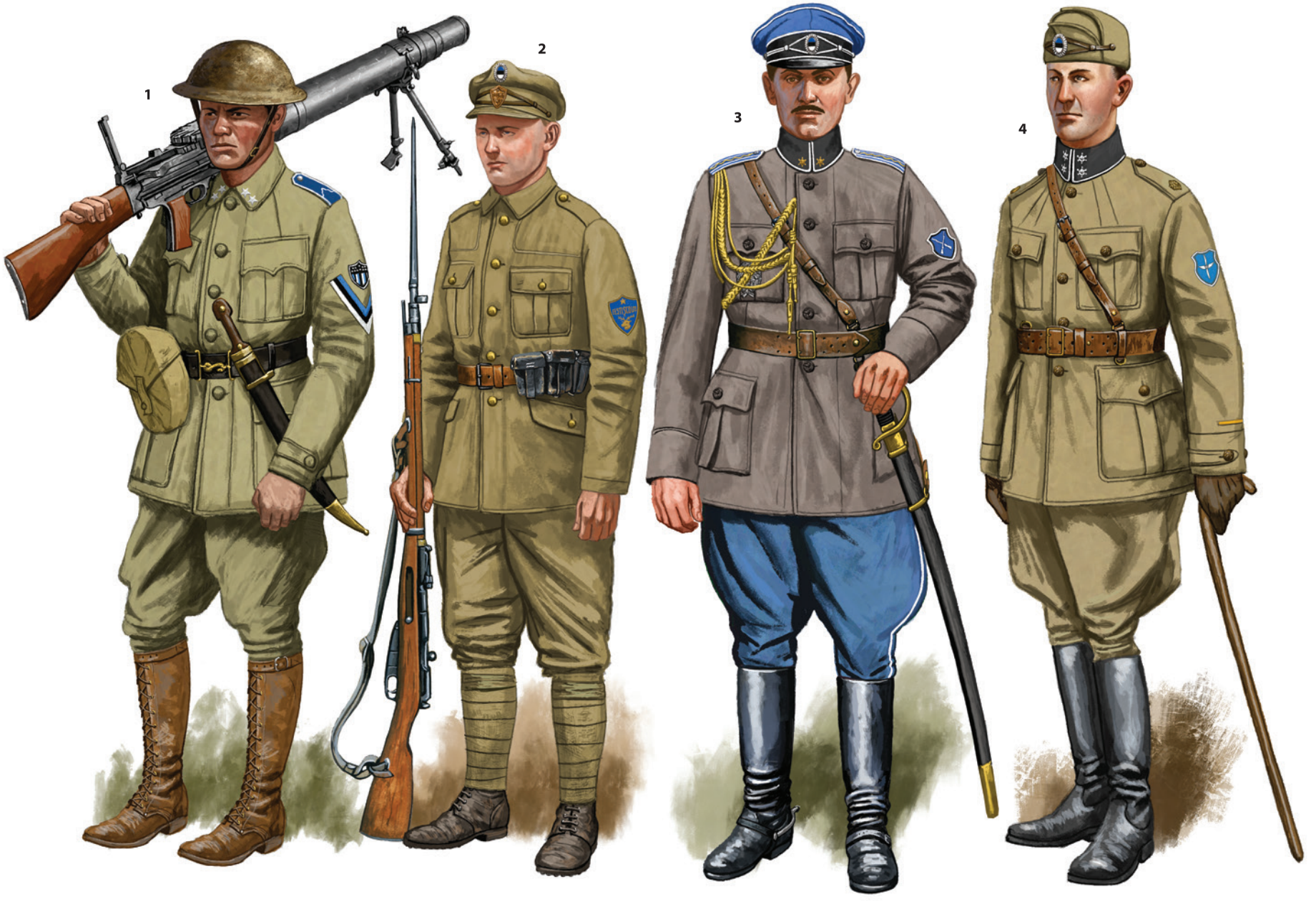
This private of the élite Scouts Bn has the widely-worn British-surplus khaki uniform with original British shoulder straps. He wears his M1919 cap cockade above the copper other-ranks' unit badge, with his chinstrap fashionably separated behind it, and a Scouts Bn sleeve shield showing a yellow star, script and elk's head on a yellow-edged blue ground. Note the German M1909 black leather pouches.

(3) *Alampolkovnik*, 4th Infantry Regiment; Tartu, July 1919

This dress uniform with items in Estonian national colours was produced in limited quantities during wartime, but after the armistice was worn by all regular officers until 1924. The popular blue dress peaked cap has a black band, white piping and an M1919 cockade; again, note the separation of the cap-cords around the badge. This lieutenant-colonel wears a brownish-grey tunic with M1919 field officer's collar and shoulder-strap rank insignia; an infantry sleeve shield; a General Staff Academy breast badge is hidden by gold General Staff aiguillettes. His blue riding breeches have silver side-stripes; his 'Sam Browne' belt is British, and his M1909 officer's sabre Russian.

(4) *Alamleitnant*, Air Service; GHQ Tallinn, March 1920

This subaltern pilot wears the khaki uniform officially introduced in 1920 but in fact worn much earlier. Flying personnel preferred a flapped field cap to the peaked service cap. The tunic retains the officers' black collar with rank stars, but now has the 1920 pointed plain shoulder straps bearing the single brass star of all subaltern ranks**.** The Air Service branch badge on his left sleeve shows the 'heraldic' shape of this series of insignia, and he has one gold braid wound-bar above the cuff. There was no pilot's qualification badge until 1923.


1
2
3
4

A senior military official (section chief, *kapten* equivalent), attached to the Armoured Train Bn; he wears a Russian officers' khaki cap with the Estonian brownish-grey M1919 tunic. Officials wore no shoulder straps; the officers' white-piped black collar bears silver-gold-silver bars for this grade. The unofficial but widely worn sleeve shield is black with a broad white border, and a light blue diagonal bar with a silver-thread 'SR' over 'D' for *Soomusrongi Divisjon*, 'Armoured Train Battalion'. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

of Paju Estate on 31 Jan, and Petseri (4 Feb), and annexing Marienburg (Alūksne) and Heinaste (Ainaži) in N Latvia. Estonian units supported by armoured trains (organized into a Bn, 20 Feb) advanced about 15 miles per day, while demoralized Red Army troops offered only token opposition. The Estonian Army had cleared Estonia of the enemy, blocking Lenin's attempt to export Bolshevism westward and securing international respect in the process.

Failed Red Army offensive, Feb–May 1919

On 18 Feb 1919 the Red Army launched an offensive against the Estonian border defences. Estonia responded on 20 Feb by deploying 1st Div, the Armd Train Bn supported by parts of White Russian Pskov Vol Corps (PDK), and reinforcements from southern Estonian forces in a successful defence of Narva (18 Feb to 25 Apr 1919). The Red Army attacked the Southern Front on 16 Feb, capturing Heinaste (16 Feb), Marienburg (21 Feb) and Petseri (11 March), and by 15 March Alūksne (Latvia) and Setomaa, Vastseliina and Räpina (Estonia). The front was reinforced by Estonian 3rd Div, formed 27 March to defend SW Estonia. Heavy fighting continued until 27 Apr, but 3rd Div retook Petseri (29 March) and defended Võru (23 Apr to 5 May), while 2nd Div's offensive from 1 May was successful. Estonian 9th Inf Regt was formed on 4 May 1919.

Incursions into Russia and Latvia, May–June 1919

With Estonia's borders secure, Gen Laidoner decided to employ Estonian forces to support attempts by the Ingrians, Latvians and White Russian Northern Corps (formerly PDK) in Petrograd province to expel the Red Army from their territory, thereby creating a buffer zone around Estonia. Estonian troops, who disliked fighting outside Estonia and especially in Russia, would fight alongside the White Russians. On 13 May, Northern Corps advanced from Narva towards Petrograd, supported by the British and Estonian navies and Estonian 1st Div on the Gulf of Finland coastal flank. By amphibious assaults Estonian naval infantry took Koporye Bay, Ingria (17 May), and the Ingrian Bn captured Krasnaya Gorka fort (14 June) after its garrison mutinied. On 19 June Estonian forces halted on the Luga River, but the White Russian Northern Corps

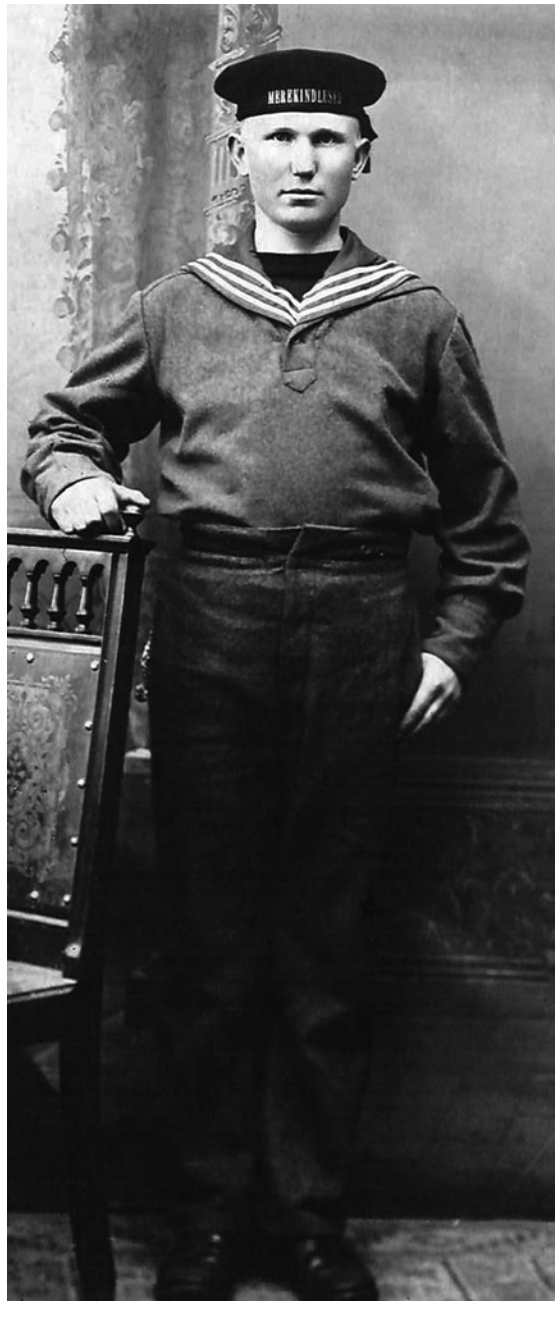
(renamed Northern Army, later North-Western Army – SZA), was already retreating, having failed to take Gatchina 30 miles from Petrograd. Nevertheless, the SZA and Estonians halted the Red Army counteroffensive on the Struga River line. Meanwhile, Estonian 2nd Div began advancing (16 May) into NW Latvia and NE Russia, taking Rōuge, and S Estonia (8–17 May), occupying Raskopeli Bay on Lake Peipus on 20 May. Despite heavy losses 2nd Div occupied Pskov on 24 May, destroying the 1st Estonian Red RD and causing 1st Estonian Red RR to change sides. On the same day 2nd Div also took Irboska and Pangevitsa.

On 24 May, Estonian 3rd Div advanced from Valga into Livonia (N Latvia), taking Valmiera (26th), Limbaži (27th), Smiltene (29th), and Cēsis and Vecgulbene (31st), when it halted. Meanwhile 2nd Div advanced into NE Latvia (27 May), taking Marienburg (28th); and 1st Cav Regt, supported by lorried infantry and armoured cars, reached the Daugava River on 5 June, linking up with Polish Sixth Army occupying Krustpils and Jēkabpils.

The Landeswehr campaign, May–June 1919

Meanwhile, the Baltic German Landeswehr and Freikorps 'Iron Div' in S Latvia posed a new threat to Estonian forces. On 22 May they advanced from Riga, seeking to outflank Estonian 2nd Div, which was holding a fragile defensive line against the Red Army in Ieriki-Cēsis district, W Latvia. Refusing Allied demands to desist, the Landeswehr attacked 3rd Div on 5 June, occupying Cēsis the next day. The Estonians counterattacked on 8–9 June, but fighting was then halted under a local armistice imposed by the Allies, who demanded that German forces now retreat to Germany as specified in the Treaty of Versailles.

The Germans refused outright, and fighting recommenced on 19 June, with the 5,000-strong Estonian 3rd Div, including the 1,400-man Latvian 2nd Inf Regt, defending Limbaži, Stalbe, Cēsis and Rauna. The Estonians resisted repeated enemy assaults; the Germans broke through the Latvian lines on 21 June, only to be forced back by Estonian reinforcements, including the élite Armd Train Bn (expanded to Div, 23 Aug) and Kuperjanov and Kalevlaste Maleva Bns, followed on 23 June by a 3rd Div counterattack. The Estonians retook Cēsis the same day, and by the 28th occupied the Milgrāvis and Mangasala suburbs of Riga. Allied officials imposed an armistice and transferred the Germans to Jelgava, W Latvia, on 5 July. The battle of Cēsis was a brilliant Estonian victory, ending for ever German colonial ambitions in the Baltic.



An Estonian Navy sailor serving ashore, 1919–20. The tally ribbon of the British-style cap is lettered in gold '*MEREKINDLUSED*' ('Coastal Artillery'). His blue jumper is apparently a summer pattern; it is worn with a very dark blue undershirt, tucked into black unflared trousers – compare with Plate C4. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

Eversti (Col) Hans Kalm, commander of the Finnish Northern Sons Regt (compare with Plate B4). His M1918 field-grey Finnish Army uniform has non-regulation shoulder straps indicating rank, and this volunteer unit's blue left-sleeve shield depicts a white polar bear's head.

It is little known that Finnish intervention in Estonia was only one of 17 'Finnish Kindred Wars' during 1918–22, when Finland tried to support neighbouring related communities in Karelia and the Baltic against Bolshevik invasion. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

Defending the borders, July–Aug 1919

On the Northern Front, from 12 July 1919 the 4,800-strong 1st Div (1, 4, 9 and Ingrian Inf Regts) was defending the Gulf of Finland coast south as far as the Petrograd–Narva railway, repelling all Red Army attacks including one against Narva on 4–11 August. On the Southern Front, the Red Army unsuccessfully besieged 2nd Div defending Pskov from 8 July, but on the 18th the Estonians counterattacked, halting on 28 July before Ostrov and Porkhov, only to be forced back to Irboska and Pskov. 2nd Div retreated over the Estonian border on 25 Aug, leaving Pskov to the White Russian SZA, which promptly surrendered the town to the Red Army.

Second advance into Russia, Oct–Nov 1919

On 26 Aug 1919 the Allies, Baltic, Polish and White Russian armies agreed a coordinated offensive against Bolshevik Russia. The SZA's unsuccessful Petrograd offensive lasted from 10 Oct to 12 Nov 1919. Laidoner sent

Finnish volunteers from *Majuri* Ekstöm's 1st Finnish Volunteer Unit at Narva. At left, note the Finnish M1918 peaked field cap derived from the German M1915 mountain cap; the four men standing centre wear Estonian M1919 woollen winter caps, and the men on the right 'Mannerheim caps' (or the Swedish M1909 original). All wear either Finnish M1918 greatcoats or various fleece coats, with the Unit's field sign of an armband divided white over blue. The NCO (kneeling, right) is a sergeant-major (*vääpeli*) with 2 silver shoulder-strap bars; the Lewis-gunner beside him has a German helmet. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

Estonian amphibious forces to support the SZA by capturing Krasnaya Gorka on 13 Oct, but the Estonians withdrew in late Oct as the Russians retreated to Narva, forcing the Estonian garrison at Yamburg to follow suit on 14 November. The SZA was interned and disbanded by the Estonians on 11 November. Meanwhile, Estonian 2nd Div attacked Pskov between 11 Oct and 6 Nov, damaging communications and infrastructure, before returning to the Estonian border following the SZA's collapse. The Estonian Army and Navy now numbered 78,420 men, supported by 119,000 EK.

The last battles, Nov–Dec 1919

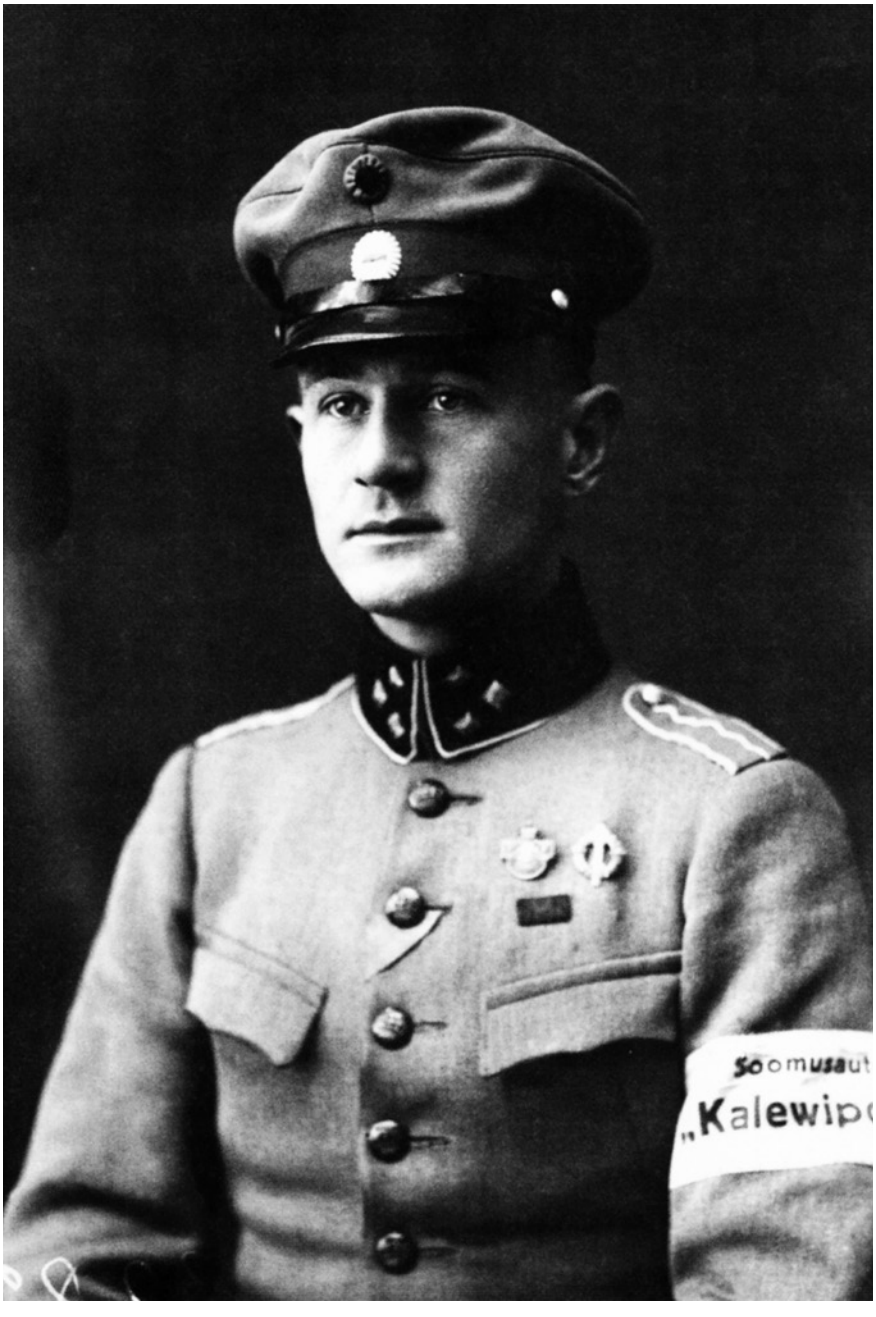
On 16 Nov 1919 the Red Army attacked Narva, defended by 1st Div, and by 25 Nov had forced the Estonian line back either side of the town, leading to heavy fighting in the surrounding villages. Russian-Estonian peace talks had commenced in Tartu on 5 Dec, but on the 7th the Red Army launched a new offensive, obliging Laidoner to commit 3rd Div as reinforcements, fighting in Krivasoo, Vääska, Samokrassi and Mustjõe between 16 Nov and 30 December. Narva, completely surrounded, nevertheless remained in Estonian hands, and a last Red Army offensive on the Narva-Peipus line on 28–30 Dec was repelled with heavy losses. These final battles on the Northern Front, fought in snow and sub-zero temperatures, were reminiscent of the Western Front, with artillery barrages directed against enemy barbed

Kaptajn Borgelin (left), commander of the Danish Volunteer Company. His grey M1915 Danish officers' field uniform bears Estonian collar stars. The sidecap was a regimental creation, here bearing a Danish oval red-and-white cockade above 4 silver rank chevrons, point up. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

wire, trenches and bunkers. On several occasions Estonian troops repelled up to ten Red Army assaults per day. An armistice was finally signed on 31 Dec 1919, effective 3 Jan 1920, and the Treaty of Tartu was signed on 2 Feb 1920.

Conclusion

In 1919 the Estonian and Polish armies shouldered most of the burden against the Bolsheviks. The Estonian Army emerged from the war as the second strongest force on the southern Baltic coast after the Polish Army, with 85,000 confident and battle-hardened veterans well armed with



Swedish *alamkapten* Einar Lundborg, commander of the Estonian armoured car *'Kalevipoeg'*, wearing Swedish light brownish-grey M1910 uniform (compare with Plate E3). His peaked cap displays on the crown the Swedish national cockade, a blue disc with gold rayed edging, and on the midnight-blue band the M1919 Estonian badge. The tunic has an Estonian black collar with 3 German 4-point rank stars, and Estonian subalterns' shoulder straps. The black printing on his off-white armband identifies his armoured car '*Soomusauto "Kalewipoeg"*' (archaic spelling). Lundborg later found fame as a seaplane pilot, by rescuing Umberto Nobile's Italian Arctic expedition in June 1928. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

modern equipment, and supported by the well-motivated if poorly armed 120,000-strong Defence League, to which virtually every able-bodied man belonged. Laidoner had fought an enemy two to three times, sometimes five to six times his strength, by constantly transferring élite units from sector to sector, and appointing energetic and skilled commanders able to make tactical decisions. Although both groups had a common ancestry in the Russian Imperial Army, the Estonian officer corps had proved superior to the Red Army's.

Estonia was the first of the post-Russian Empire nation states to defy Bolshevik aggression, and this encouraged others. Following its victory in

the Independence War, Estonia enjoyed national freedom for 20 years, and would preserve its culture for a further 46 years of Soviet occupation after World War II.

A group of Swedish volunteer officers; see Plate E3. (Front) Capt Lillienkrantz, Capt C. G. Malmberg, and Lt H. Tamelm; (rear) Lt Samselius and Capt Lundborg. They all wear Swedish Army M1910 uniform, which paired a light grey tunic with midnight-blue trousers; the headgear, all with Swedish cockades, are either white fleece winter caps or kepis with gold braid rank rings. The tunic has gold buttons and a gold-piped midnight-blue collar with gold rank stars, and is worn here with Estonian subalterns' shoulder straps. The armbands are off-white with midnight-blue and yellow horizontal or diagonal stripes. (Estonian State Archive)

LATVIA

In 1914 there were Latvians living in Russian Courland, southern Livonia and western Vitebsk governorates. Latvians conscripted into the Russian Imperial Army took part in the invasion of German East Prussia in Aug 1914, losing about 25,000 dead. In May 1915 the German Niemen (later Eighth) Army invaded Courland. In June the Russian High Command ordered a mass evacuation of Courland and Zemgale, and in July of Riga factory workers; approximately 735,000 refugees retreated into Russia.

On 16 Aug 1915 the Imperial Army began forming Latvian Rifle Bns from these evacuees. Eight volunteer bns were formed, numbered 1 Daugavgrīva, 2 Riga, 3 Courland, 4 Livonia, 5 Zemgale, 6 Tukums, 7 Bauska and 8 Valmiera. These soon won a reputation as tenacious fighters, defending Riga along the Daugava River line despite heavy losses (partly through *Stavka* incompetence). On 3 Nov 1916 the bns expanded to regts, divided into 1st (1–4 Bns) and 2nd (5–8 Bns) Brigades.

Generālis Jānis Balodis, Latvia's most successful general, photographed in 1920 wearing the M1919 grey Latvian Army field uniform. The so-called 'Balodis cap' is characterized by the shallow crown and deep band, which bears the first-pattern 'sunburst' badge. His M1919 rank insignia show large 4-point gold metal stars on a dark red collar patch with a white diagonal stripe. The 'K' just visible on the shoulder strap indicates the Courland Div, which Balodis commanded 15 July–16 October 1919, after which he served as Army C-in-C until February 1921. He wears the neck cross of a Commander of the French *Légion d'Honneur*. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

Having suffered 9,000 casualties and lost confidence in the Russian Army, most survivors joined the Bolsheviks in May 1917 as 'Red Latvian Riflemen'. On 3 Sept 1917 the German Eighth Army advanced to take Riga, and by Feb 1918 had occupied Latvia, leaving the Red Latvian Bdes to retreat to Petrograd, where they formed the Soviet Latvian Rifle Div on 13 Apr 1918. Only a few, mainly officers and 1st Regt personnel, joined the White Russians as 'White Latvian Riflemen'.

Meanwhile, the political situation was being transformed. On 5 July 1917 the Russian Provisional Government recognized the Latgale, Courland and Livonia Provisional Land Councils, formed in Apr and May to promote Latvian unity and autonomy. Meanwhile the rival Latvian *Iskolat* Bolshevik Party had formed on 12 Aug 1917, and established a communist government in Livonia on 21 Nov 1917. The Germans invaded Livonia in Feb 1918, forcing the government to flee to Petrograd, where it was disbanded on 3 March by the disenchanted Bolsheviks. On 17 Nov 1918 the Latvian People's Council was formed, and the following day declared Latvian independence, appointing a Provisional Government under Prime Minister Kārlis Ulmanis.

A Latvian soldier in the Northern Brigade's greenish-grey uniform. He is wearing a fashionably dented M1910 cap with that formation's white-and-dark red oval cockade. His *French* tunic has home-made Russian-style shoulder straps with a horizontally-striped white and dark red shield badge, but no collar patches. His decoration is the Russian St George's Cross 4th Class. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

LATVIAN ARMY

Organization (see Table 3)

The Latvian Army (*Latvijas Armija*), formed on 11 July 1919, included the Latvian Aviation Group (*Latvijas Aviācijas Grupa*) established 7 June, and renamed Latvian Aviation Park (*Latvijas Aviācijas Parks*) on 1 Oct 1919. There was also a Border Guard (*Robežsardze*), formed 7 Nov 1919. The Latvian Navy (*Latvijas Kara flote*) was established on 10 Aug 1919. The Army was supported by the *Aiszagi* internal security forces.

Uniforms and insignia

The **M1918 uniform** worn by the first units formed in Nov 1918 was Russian khaki field uniform with an M1915 Adrian helmet, a fleece cap or peaked cap (including the black Russian Empire students' cap), with a greatcoat or sheepskin jacket, and a *French* service tunic or *gymnastiorka* field-shirt. The first units in Courland were armed and equipped by the German Army and wore either field-grey uniform, sometimes modified (comprising an M1916 helmet, peaked or peakless cap, greatcoat or M1915 tunic), or a mixture of Russian, German and civilian items. Latvian nationality was indicated by a horizontally-striped armband on the left or right upper sleeve in the national colours – red-white-red, both dark and brighter shades of red being seen – and an improvised national-colours ribbon on the headgear.

On 28 Feb 1919 an **M1919 uniform** was prescribed for all ranks. This was of grey wool with grey bone buttons and red collar patches of rank, but initially German uniforms were worn with tunic breast pockets added. Headgear was either a Russian khaki peaked cap, or a grey 'Balodis cap' with shallow crown, deep band, cloth chinstrap and cloth-covered peak. The first-pattern grey metal 'sunburst' cap badge depicted a sun with tricolour edging and flames and an 'L' (for Latvia) and three stars, representing Courland, Latgale and Livonia. The smaller second pattern had a tricolour ribbon edging, silver flames, and a red 'L' and stars on a white background. The *French* had a high turnover collar for officers, a low collar for NCOs and men, no shoulder straps, five front buttons, cuff-straps with two buttons, external pleated breast pockets with scalloped buttoned flaps, and internal waist pockets with diagonal scalloped buttoned flaps. This was worn with grey breeches and officers' brown riding boots or leggings with ankle boots, or other ranks' puttees and ankle boots.

Under wartime conditions clothing patterns were not standardized, and the M1919 uniform was augmented by items of Russian and German uniform and supplies from the USA and Britain – Latvian officers particularly favoured the

Table 3: Selective battle order of Latvian armed forces, 1 December 1918–4 October 1920

GHQ units:

Student Bn / Tank Bn; 1 Armd Bn / Armd Car Bn; Armd Train Bn (1–4 trains); Aviation Group/ Park.

Latvian Indep Bn

Officers' Res Co / Latvian Indep Co; Cēsis Self Defence Co / Cēsis Co; Indep Student Co; 1 Indep Cav Unit; 1 Eng Sapper Co; 1 Latvian Arty Bty.

Latvian Independent (later South Latvia) / (1) Courland Div

Latvia Indep Bn / 1.1 Liepāja Inf Regt; Malienes Bn / 2.1 Liepāja Inf Regt; Riga Bn / 3.1 Liepāja Inf Regt; Cēsis Bn / 1.2 Ventspils Inf Regt; 4 Riga Bn / 2.2 Ventspils Inf Regt; 8 Piebalga Bn / 3.2 Ventspils Inf Regt; Indep Student Bn / 1.3 Jelgava Inf Regt; Bauska Bn / 2.3 Jelgava Inf Regt; Upper Courland Partisan Regt / 3.3 Jelgava Inf Regt; 13 Tukums Inf Regt; Latgale Partisan Regt; 4 / 6 Bn; 5 Bn; 7 Training Bn; 1 Sqn, 1 Cav Bn / Courland Indep Sqn; Courland Arty Regt: 1, 3 Bns; Courland Eng Co.

North Latvia Bde / (2) Livonia Div

1 Valmiera Inf Regt / 4 Valmiera Inf Regt; 2 Cēsis Inf Regt / 5 Cēsis Inf Regt; 3 Jelgava Inf Regt / 7 Sigulda Inf Regt (Latgale Div); 4 Sigulda Inf Regt / 6 Riga Inf Regt; 1 North Latvia Indep Sqn / Livonia Indep Sqn; 2 North Latvia Indep Sqn / Livonia Indep Sqn; 2 Sqn, 1 Cav Bn / Livonia Indep Sqn; Livonia Arty Regt: 4 Bn; Livonia Eng Co.

(3) Latgale Div

7 Sigulda Inf Regt (ex Courland Div); 5, 6 Bn (South Latvia Bde) / 8 Daugavpils Inf Regt; 7 Training Bn (ex South Latvia Bde) / 9 Rēzekne Inf Regt; 3 Sqn, 1 Cav Bn / Latgale Indep Sqn; Latgale Arty Regt: 7 Bn; Latgale Eng Co.

Lower Courland Military Region / (4) Zemgale Div

1 Liepaja Supplementary Bn / 10 Aizpute Inf Regt; Grobinas Bn / 11 Dobele Inf Regt; Latgale Div Res Bn / 12 Bauska Inf Regt; Artums Hartmanis Indep Sqn / Zemgale Indep Sqn; Zemgale Arty Regt; Zemgale Eng Co.

Latvian Navy

1 Naval Co & Mine Flotilla / Naval Unit / Naval Section 'Naval Administration'; Lake Lubāns Flotilla.

British officers' open-collar tunic. Cavalrymen preferred the German M1910 other ranks' field-grey braided hussar tunic with field-grey chest cords and shoulder straps, or a retailored infantry *Feldbluse* with unofficial cord shoulder knots, together with German peaked caps, cavalry breeches and spurred riding boots.

Northern Latvia Bde units wore either Russian khaki uniforms or those provided by Estonian suppliers, with a Latvian cockade in national colours in a silver oval on the khaki (or coloured civilian) peaked cap; shoulder straps with clipped corners and a national-colours metal shield badge or shoulder-loop ribbon, and rank insignia; a field-shirt, trousers, puttees and ankle boots, and mostly Russian equipment. White unit armbands were worn on the left sleeve, bearing the regimental number and initial with the national colours.

Rank insignia (see Table 8, page 62)

From 28 February 1919 rank was worn on a dark or bright red cloth collar patch shaped initially as a rectangle and later as a parallelogram, with a white diagonal braid and officers' gilt metal stars, sergeant-majors' gold-braid or NCO's white-braid rank bars. The diagonal braid and stars were often worn incorrectly.

Military officials included administrators and doctors, divided into 3 classes (*1.–3. Škiras karā Ierēdnis*), each with one of several departmental

titles. Rank insignia comprised silver metal suns on the standard M1919 red and white collar patch – for example, in the administrative branch: 3 suns = privy councillor/ 1st class official (MajGen equivalent); 2 suns = state councillor/ 2nd class (Col); and 1 sun = confirmed titular councillor/3rd class (LtCol). A wartime official (*Karā laikā Ierēdnis*) wore a silver metal triangle.

From 31 March to 30 July 1919, officers of the Northern Latvia Bde wore Russian-style silver-braid shoulder straps piped red, with red or blue centre-stripes, a tricolour shield and gilded metal triangles, while other ranks had cloth shoulder straps with braid stripes or triangles. Senior officers (Col, LtCol) = 2 centre-stripes, 3 or no triangles; (Capt-2nd Lt) = 1 centre-stripe, 3 or no triangles; Senior SgtMaj = vertical silver braid; and NCOs and other ranks (SgtMaj-Pte) = wide vertical silver braid, wide horizontal braid, 3 or no triangles.

Since Latvian units were often 'officer-heavy', point-down braid chevrons were introduced on 7 Aug 1919 to distinguish officers with actual command responsibility: GOC Div = 1 wide gold; Regt CO = 3 narrow gold; Bn CO = 3 narrow silver; Co Cdr = 2 narrow silver; and Ptn Cdr = 1 narrow silver.

Branch distinctions

Branch or unit insignia were prescribed but not widely worn until 1921, when a khaki uniform was introduced. Branch-colours appeared in 1922. The only wartime exceptions were the coloured collar patches and cap bands of the Cav Regt sqns: Courland = red; Livonia = yellow; Latgale = white; Zemgale = dark red; and Latgale Partisans = black. Troopers also carried coloured squadron pennants.

E

ESTONIA'S ALLIES, 1918–1920

(1) *Shtabs-kapitan*, 2nd Ostrov Rifle Regiment, Russian North-Western Army; Ingria, May 1919

This junior captain of the SZA wears non-regulation uniform. The dark green M1907/10 peacetime peaked service cap has a regimental raspberry-red band, white piping, and an officers' cockade. The khaki tunic has a stand-up buttoned collar piped raspberry-red, as are the breast-pocket flaps and cuffs. The khaki field shoulder straps have white piping and red centre-stripes, a gilt regimental number, and 4 small silver rank stars. He wears silver aide-de-camp's aiguillettes, and the SZA's field sign of an upward-pointing chevron in white, blue and red above a white cross. His awards identify him as a commissioned ex-NCO: above his left cuff, 2 gold officers' and 1 other ranks' red wound-bars; and across his chest (from the left) the Order of St George Officers' Cross, Order of St Anne, and 2 gold and 2 silver other ranks' St George's Crosses. His wide khaki riding breeches have inch-wide bright red stripes, and his British 'Sam Browne' belt supports an M1909 officers' sabre with a sword knot in the St George's orange and black colours.

(2) *Poruchik*, Bułak-Bałachowicz's Mounted Partisan Detachment, Pskov Volunteer Corps; Gdov, May 1919

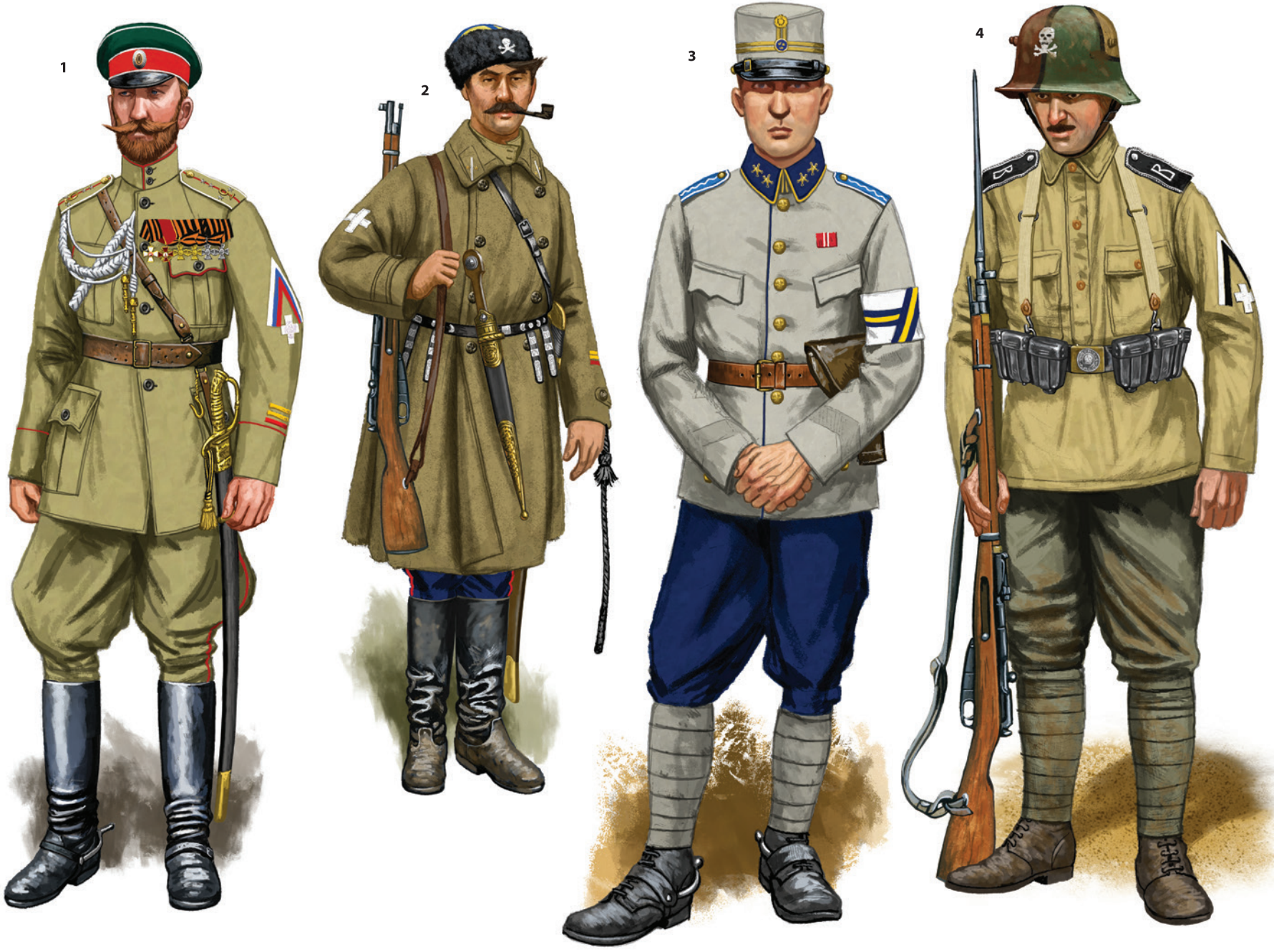
This subaltern wears a black lambswool cap with the Astrakhan Cossacks' yellow and blue crown, and this unit's skull-and-crossbones badge. His US Army surplus M1917 khaki greatcoat has a White Russian field sign of a white cross on the right sleeve, and 2 gold officers' above 1 red other ranks' wound bars above the left cuff. On the collar are the 2 gilt stars and silver diagonal bar of this rank according to the distinctive system used by the PDK. The blue cavalry breeches have red side-stripes, and distinctively Cossack items include a narrow belt with 4 decorated leather pendants, a Caucasian *kindjal* dagger, *nagaika* whip and (mostly obscured here) *shaska* sabre. His primary weapon is an M1907 Mosin-Nagant artillery carbine.

(3) *Löjtnant*, Swedish Volunteer Corps; Southern Front, May 1919

This lieutenant wears the Swedish M1910 light brownish-grey tunic with dark blue breeches. The private-purchase grey kepi worn in Finland and Estonia has yellow and triple-crown blue national cockades set on a vertical gold lace and 2 gold rank rings. The tunic has a dark blue collar piped gold, with 2 gilt rank stars; Estonian subalterns' M1919 shoulder straps; dark blue front and bottom piping; and has had its original dark blue cuff chevrons removed. He wears a white, yellow and blue armband as a field sign, and the ribbon of the Finnish Cross of Liberty ('Mannerheim Cross') marks recent service in the Finnish Civil War. His weapon is a private-purchase M1910 Belgian Browning 7.65mm automatic pistol.

(4) *Freiwilliger*, Volunteer Baltic Regiment; Yamburg, August 1919

This unit was initially equipped by the German Army (though all ranks used Imperial Russian rank insignia), and the volunteer private's M1916 helmet shows a hand-painted skull-and-crossbones over German camouflage. His original German tunic has been replaced with an ex-US Army khaki shirt worn like a Russian field-shirt; the added Russian black shoulder straps have white piping, black-and-white volunteer braid edging, and a B ('Baltic') regimental cypher. The field sign on his sleeve is a white-and-black chevron and a white cross. Light brown canvas supporting straps for a German waistbelt with a Prussian buckle-plate support German M1909 pouches with ammunition for his M1891 Mosin-Nagant. The leg and footwear is German.


1
2
3
4

A *virsleitnants* of the Courland Cavalry Squadron, wearing a German field-grey uniform with M1910 cap; the latter has this squadron's red band, white piping, and the second-pattern 'sunburst' badge. The greenish-grey *French* has the squadron's red collar patches piped white, with a white diagonal stripe, and two gold rank stars wrongly positioned in the corners instead of along the stripe – a common sight in wartime. Note the Latvian cavalry's unofficial cord shoulder knots, probably inspired by German originals. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

LATVIAN INDEPENDENCE WAR, 1 DEC 1918–11 AUG 1920

An uncertain beginning

Unlike in Estonia, the Latvian Provisional Government had not formed military units before independence, since most trained soldiers had joined the Latvian Red Rifle Div, while other potential recruits were refugees in Russia. Latvia's only credible defence from the Bolsheviks lay in the German occupation forces, which the Allied Powers had instructed after the 11 Nov 1918 armistice to defend Latvia (though many German troops were disaffected and wanted to return home, while others plotted a Baltic-German protectorate). On 1 Dec 1918 the Bolshevik Latvian Army Group (including the Latvian RD) crossed the Latvian border and advanced through SE Estonia, occupying Alūksne (7 Dec), Valka (18th) and Cēsis (23rd) in northern Livonia, and Daugavpils (9 Dec) and Pjavinas (17th) in southern Livonia, meeting only nominal local resistance.

On 17 Nov 1918 the Latvian Provisional Government sanctioned the formation of a Latvian People's Militia (*Latvijas Tautas Milicijas*), renamed on 7 Dec the **Latvian Defence Force** (***Latvijas Zemessardze***). Latvian internal security forces were also formed on 17 Nov, and redesignated on 22 March 1919 *Aiszargi* ('Defenders'). Latvia was divided on 9 Dec 1918 into Courland, Latgale, Livonia and Zemgale Military Districts, and on 10 Dec the Ministry of Defence was formally established. Meanwhile, German occupation forces formed the Baltic Defence Force (*Baltische Landeswehr*) on 9 Nov 1918, ostensibly to defend Latvia, but in fact to promote German colonial expansion in the Baltic. Three Latvian Bns (numbered 1–3), totalling only 1,000 men, were nominally established in Riga in Nov, and by the end of Dec 1918 only a few more companies had been formed, including high-school students and partisans, many untrained and untested.

Southern Front, Jan–March 1919

On 31 Dec 1918 Defence Minister Jānis Zālītis ordered general mobilization, but on 2 Jan the Provisional Government, escorted by the Indep Student Co, fled from Riga to Liepāja on the Courland coast, opting for Landeswehr protection or refuge on British warships (which arrived from 17 January). A day later Riga fell to the Bolshevik Latvian Army Group. Meanwhile, on 5 Jan the charismatic commander *Kopvedis* Oscars Kalpaks formed the **1st Latvian Independent Bn** with six company-equivalent units in Liepāja, and was appointed first commander of the reorganized Latvian armed forces.

On 6 Jan the Latvian Red Rifles attacked, taking Jelgāva (8th), Dobele (9th) and Tukums (10th) and forcing 1st Indep Bn back to Lielauce. On 16 Jan, Kalpaks counterattacked together with German and White Russian units, defeating the enemy at Lielauce and taking Skrunda (29 Jan), thereby boosting Latvian morale, before pausing to hold the Venta River line. The unit resumed its offensive on 3 March, occupying the Lielupe River against strong resistance, but on 6 March *Pulkvedis* Kalpaks was killed near Saldus, western Zemgale, in a firefight with German forces. *Pulkvedis* Jānis Balodis now assumed command, defeating the enemy at Saldus (10 March), Tukums (15th), Jaunpils (16th), Jelgāva (18th) and Livoberz (19 March).

On 21 March 1919 the 1st Indep Bn was absorbed into the 10,000-strong **Latvian Independent (or Southern Latvia) Bde** with 12 bns, commanded by Balodis, who was now responsible for all Latvian troops in the 'Southern Army Group'. The Southern Latvia Bde advanced, subordinated to Von der Goltz's German forces, taking Bauska on 23 March and reaching the Lielupe River (26th), where it occupied the Lielupe line during two months of local skirmishing.

A Latvian infantry private of the Courland Div in German field-grey uniform. He has a greenish-grey M1919 'Balodis' cap with second-pattern badge, and the German greatcoat has had the shoulder straps removed and Latvian red-and-white M1919 collar patches added. The national field sign is an armband striped red-white-red. The belt, pouches and rifle are all German issue. Other photos of Northern Bde troops show ex-US and British greatcoats and British caps. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

The Landeswehr campaign, Apr–July 1919

On 26 Apr the Germans launched a *coup d'état*, occupying Liepāja and replacing the Ulmanis government with a puppet regime under Andrevs Niedra. The Southern Latvia Bde and German Landeswehr attacked and occupied Riga on 22 May, leading to a Latvian communist collapse in Courland and many Red Latvian Riflemen deserting to Balodis. German forces now advanced northwards from Riga, determined to establish German superiority over the Latvians and Estonians. However, they were heavily defeated on 23 June by Estonian 3rd Div and Northern Latvia Bde (see below) in an epic battle at Cēsis, and forced back to German-occupied Riga. There the Latvian Provisional Government was restored on 8 July, and German forces were ordered by the Allies to leave the Baltic. Now only Latgale was in foreign hands.

Northern Front, Jan–July 1919

On 31 Jan 1919 the Estonian Tartu Partisan Bn and Finnish Northern Sons Regt captured Valka from Latvian Red forces, and occupied the Livonian enclave.

At the request of Latvian President Ulmanis, from 18 Feb all able-bodied Latvian men in parts of Estonia and Northern Latvia liberated by the Estonian Army were formed into Latvian national units. On 31 March the **Northern Latvia Bde** was formed under *Kopvedis* (later *Pulkvedis*) Jorgis Zemitāns; it eventually comprised 9,800 men in 2, later 4 Inf Regts, Res Bn, Vol Latgale Partisan Bn, Arty Bn (2 btys), 2 Cav Sqns and an Eng Company. Arms and equipment were provided by the Estonian government. The brigade was attached to the 3rd Estonian Div and fought from Apr 1919 on the Estonian front, occupying Rujiena and N Livonia from 1 May, taking Valmiera on 6 June, and fighting at Cēsis on 23 June. Finally, on 6 July the brigade entered Riga, where it transferred to Latvian national command.

Final campaigns, Oct 1919–July 1920

On 10 July 1919 Latvian military forces were reorganized as the **Latvian Army** under C-in-C *Generālis* Dāvīds Sīmansons, comprising the Courland Div (*Pulkvedis* Balodis), Livonia Div (*Pulkvedis* Peniķis) and Latgale Div (*Pulkvedis* Berķis), each with 3-4 Inf Regts, a Cav Sqn, Arty Regt and Eng Co; additionally, 1st Armd Bn was formed on 14 July with armoured cars and armoured trains.

On 8 Oct 1919, the White Russian *General-Mayor* Pavel Bermondt-Avalov's Western Volunteer Army (ZDA – see below, under 'White Russian Forces') attacked Riga. *Pulkvedis* Balodis, C-in-C Latvian Army from 16 Oct, counterattacked with support from Estonian armoured trains and British warships, and by 11 Nov had retaken the left-bank suburbs of Riga, forcing the ZDA to retreat into Lithuania.

On 30 Dec 1919 Poland and Latvia formed an alliance, and on 3 Jan 1920 Latvian and Polish forces invaded Latgale, expelling the Red Army from the province. The Polish 1st and 2nd Legion and Latvian Latgale Divs stormed across the frozen Daugava River and on 5 Jan captured Daugavpils, which the Poles promptly ceded to Latvia. On 4 Jan a fourth Latvian Div was formed: the Zemgale Div, commanded by *Pulkvedis* Dankers.

On 1 Feb 1920 Latvia signed a ceasefire with the RSFSR, followed by one with Germany on 15 July. In February the Imantas Inf Regt returned home from garrison duties in Siberia, having served under French command since Nov 1918. The Troicka Inf Bn, formed on 1 Oct 1918 in Siberia, reached

F

LATVIAN ARMY, 1918–1920

(1) *Dižkareivis*, Livonia Independent Cavalry Squadron; Courland, April 1919

This senior trooper, holding a Russian Adrian helmet, wears a German field-grey uniform. The M1910 peaked cap has this squadron's yellow band and the first-pattern Latvian 'sunburst' badge. The M1915 tunic has M1919 collar patches of rank in yellow, unofficial improvised shoulder knots, and a Latvian armband as a field sign. He is armed with a Karabiner 98 rifle, a Prussian M1896 cavalry sabre and an M1917 German stick-grenade.

(2) *Kareivis*, Northern Latvia Brigade; Cēsis, June 1919

This infantry private has a Russian summer field uniform, equipment and rifle. Distinctive insignia include the brigade's cap cockade showing the national colours in a silver oval, and the national shield badge on his shoulder straps. The white armband (with diagonal stripes in national colours hidden at this angle) identifies his unit: '1.W.' for 1st Valmiera Inf Regt (2nd Cēsis Inf Regt wore '2. Z.').

(3) *Kapitans*, Southern Latvia Brigade; Latgale, May 1919

This infantry officer wears the M1919 grey field uniform with the 'Balodis' cap with second-pattern 'sunburst' badge. The collar patches of the *French* tunic have three gilt rank stars along the diagonal white stripe on the dark red ground, and he displays an active battalion commander's silver cuff chevrons. His Russian belt supports a holstered German P08 Luger pistol.

1
2
1.W.
3

Latvia via Vladivostok on 25 May 1920. On 11 Aug the Treaty of Riga was signed, confirming Latvian independence.

Latvia had been woefully unprepared for war, but with Estonian, British and finally Polish aid it had managed to overcome the Latvian communist opposition and expel the Germans and both Red and White Russians from the national territory.

Silvestras Žukauskas, the most distinguished Lithuanian soldier of the Independence Wars, as a *divizės vadas* (lieutenant-colonel). He wears a greenish-grey uniform comprising an M1919 kepi with M1918 *Vytis* badge, dark greenish-grey braid band and silver chinstrap; a *French* tunic; and a double-breasted officers' greatcoat. Both tunic and greatcoat bear staff-blue triangular collar patches with silver-braid edging and 2 silver rank stars. Žukauskas served (with interruptions) as the Army C-in-C from 27 May 1919 to 29 May 1921. (Nigel Thomas Collection)

LITHUANIA

In 1914 Lithuania was divided between Russian Kovno, Northern Suwałki and Western Vilna governorates, with a small Germanized community in the Memel district of German East Prussia. Lithuanians conscripted into the Russian Army fought in the invasion of East Prussia in Aug 1914 (some actually confronting Lithuanian soldiers in the Prussian Army). German Tenth Army occupied Lithuania from 26 May to 2 Oct 1915, after the Russian authorities had evacuated some 500,000 Lithuanians to the Russian interior. The province was incorporated under the German Ober Ost ('Eastern Command') military government.

The German authorities consistently frustrated Lithuanian nationalist aspirations, but did permit the Vilnius Conference of 18–22 Sept 1917, which elected a Lithuanian Council. This Council declared Lithuanian autonomy as a German protectorate, and subsequently, on 16 Feb 1918, an independent democratic Lithuanian republic. The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk on 3 March 1918 allocated Lithuania to Germany, and the German occupation prevented the Council from exercising real power. It was only on 2 Nov 1918, with German forces in full retreat on the Western Front, that Prime Minister Augustinas Voldemaras proclaimed Lithuanian independence.

The Russian Provisional Government had permitted six Lithuanian units to be formed within the Russian Army from Aug 1917: the Duke Vytautis Siberian, Rovno (now Rivne), Smolensk and Vitebsk Bns; Valga Dragoon Bn; and 226 Field Hospital. These units transferred to Vilnius on 11 Oct 1918 to form the Lithuanian Army, while others were formed at Hrodna and Alytus. With astounding naivety, Voldemaras declared that Lithuania did not require armed forces as it was committed to peaceful coexistence with its neighbours; he was soon brought to his senses, and on 23 Nov 1918 announced the formation

Table 4: Battle order of Lithuanian armed forces, 1 December 1918–29 November 1920

Higher formations: I Bde / 1 Div; II Bde / 2 Div; III Bde / 3 Div; 4 Div.

Infantry: 1 Inf Regt / 1 Lith Grand Duke Gediminas Inf Regt; 2 Inf Regt / 2 Lith Grand Duke Algirdas Inf Regt; Siauliai Bn / 3 Inf Regt / 3 Lith Grand Duke Vytautas Inf Regt; Panevėžys Bn / 4 Inf Regt / 4 Lith King Mindaugas Inf Regt; Kaunas Bn / Vilnius Bn / 5 Inf Regt / 5 Lith Prince Kęstutis Inf Regt; Mariampolė Bn / 6 Inf Regt / 6 Lith Duke Margias Inf Regt; Kaunas Bn / 7 Inf Regt / 7 Lithuanian Samogitian Duke Butigeldis Inf Regt; Ukmergė Bn / 8 Inf Regt / 8 Lith Duke Vaidotas Inf Regt; Joniškėlis Partisan Death Bn / Joniškėlis Bn / 9 Lith Duke Vytenis Inf Regt; 10–14 Inf Regts.

Cavalry: 1 Cav Regt / 1 Lith Grand Ducal Chieftain Jonušis Ravila Hussar Regt; 2 Cav Regt.

Artillery: 1 Arty Regt: 1–8 Field Btys; 9–10 Field Btys; 1–2 Howitzer Btys.

Engineers: I–II Eng Bns.

Armour: 6 armoured cars (5 Daimlers, *Aras*, *Perkunas*, *Pragaras*, *Sarunas* & *Savanoris*; 1 Izhorsky Fiat *Zaibas*); 1 armoured train *Gedyminas*.

Air Service: 1 Sqn.

of a **Lithuanian Army** (***Lietuvos kariuomené***) made up of Russian Army veterans supported by raw recruits.

LITHUANIAN ARMY

Organization (see Table 4)

The Lithuanian Army's initial 1st Inf Regt was in fact formed on 1 Nov 1918, and by June 1919 there were 9 Inf Regts, mostly formed from locally raised battalions. Named from Oct 1919 after distinguished Lithuanian aristocrats, these nine regts were to be retained in peacetime; five war-raised regts were also formed, numbered 10–14 and later reorganized as Border Regiments. On 18 July 1919, I Bde (Vilkmergė Group) at Ukmergė and II Bde (Panevėžys Group) were formed, to be joined by III Bde in 1920. Later in 1920 these were reorganized as divisions, with 4th Div forming in Oct 1920. Lithuania developed a respectable artillery branch, but only modest elements of cavalry, engineers and armour.

In early 1919 Lithuanian-American veterans formed a 10,000-strong Lithuanian-American Bde ready to fight for Lithuania; although the US Government vetoed this plan, about 500 volunteers reached Lithuania secretly via Canada, and served in Lithuania until 1920. There was also an Independent Belorussian Battalion.

The Air Sqn (*Aviacijos dalies*) was formed on 12 March 1919; Lithuania maintained some coastal patrol boats, but the Lithuanian Navy was not established until 1 Aug 1935. These forces were supported by the volunteer civilian Lithuanian Riflemen's Union (*Lietuvos Šauli Sajunga* – LŠS).

Uniforms and insignia

The original Lithuanian volunteers wore an **M1918 'uniform'** mainly consisting of a greenish-grey peaked M1918 'Kaunas cap'; this had a black patent leather chinstrap and peak, and a shallow band encircled with a yellow cloth ring. It bore a round metal national badge: a silver *Vytis* knight on a red disc, edged green, in gold 'sunray' edging. Otherwise troops wore a mixture of civilian clothes and German field-grey or Russian khaki uniform items, with on the left upper sleeve a cloth triangle horizontally striped yellow-over-green-over-red.

A new greenish-grey **M1919 uniform** was prescribed on 21 Feb 1919, but Lithuanian troops remained significantly less well-clothed and equipped than

Machine-gunner from Lithuanian 5th Inf Regt, 1919, manning a 7.62mm Russian M1910 Maxim-Nordenfeld. He wears a Russian khaki peaked cap and an NCO's greatcoat without insignia, and carries two canvas bandoliers for rifle ammunition and two German stick-grenades. (Nigel Thomas Collection)

Estonian and Latvian forces. Officers wore either the Kaunas cap or a kepi with a dark greenish-grey braid band; an M1919 German peaked cap with a deep band and high crown, silver chinstrap and *Vytis* badge; or an M1919 kepi with a yellow band (red for general-officer equivalents), silver chinstrap and *Vytis* badge. The *French* had greenish-grey buttons; a high turnover collar (from 11 Oct 1919 piped yellow), bearing rank insignia; rounded shoulder straps; two external pleated breast pockets with scalloped buttoned flaps, and pleatless side pockets; a medium-width cuff ring in greenish-grey braid, and a buttonable cuff-strap. The double-breasted greatcoat had two rows of 4 buttons and a plain collar. Riding-breeches with a greenish-grey braid seam-stripe were worn with black riding boots. A brown leather belt with a crossbrace over the right shoulder supported a pistol at the right hip.

Other ranks wore a Kaunas cap; an inferior-quality tunic with no cuff-braid; a single-breasted 4-button greatcoat with (from 11 Oct 1919) yellow collar- and shoulder-strap piping; puttees, and ankle boots. British, US and Russian khaki, German field-grey and Swedish grey uniforms were also worn, with a German belt (the Prussian *Gott mit uns* buckle-plate sometimes modified with a *Vytis* knight) and one or two sets of German, British or Russian ammunition pouches. The Lithuanian-American Bde wore better-quality Lithuanian uniforms. Units in Russia wore Russian uniforms, except for the Duke Vytautis Siberian Bn, which was issued French horizon-blue uniforms with French cuff rank-bars.

The new **M1920 uniform**, introduced on 15 Aug 1920, resembled the M1919 but was in British khaki. Officers wore the Kaunas cap or a kepi; a high-collar *French* with khaki braid rings above the cuff-straps, collar rank insignia, and rounded shoulder straps with branch-colour piping and unit number or badge; and breeches with riding boots or khaki puttees. Other ranks wore a khaki closed-collar tunic and greatcoat. Air Service personnel adopted the Russian dark blue *pilotka* sidecap with black flaps piped red, and silver crown and seam piping.

Rank insignia (see Table 9, page 63)

Early M1919 rank insignia, introduced 21 Feb 1919, were worn on the tunic and greatcoat collar, but positional titles were used instead of ranks. The highest officer (*karininkas*) rank was Defence Minister (later *generolas*), with a red cloth triangle edged with silver braid and a silver *Vytis* knight badge; Corps, Div and Regt COs had 3–1 silver 5-point stars on a branch-colour triangle with silver edging; Bn, Co and Junior Co cdrs, 3–1 stars on a branch-colour triangle. NCO (*puskarininkas*) ranks wore branch-colour vertical cloth collar bars: SgtMaj = one wide bar; Ptn Cdr & Section Cdr = 2–1 narrow bars. Regulations of 11 Oct 1919 introduced standard military rank titles, and altered the general-officer and NCO rank insignia.

The Duke Vytautis Siberian Bn had modified French Army gold braid cuff rank insignia: subalterns (*kapitonas, poručikas, podporučikas, karužas*) = 4–1 short horizontal bars; other ranks (*seržantas, kapralis* & *būrininkas, skyrininkas, grandinis kareivis, eilinis kareivis*) = 4–0 short green diagonal bars.

M1920 rank insignia, worn 15 Aug 1920–27 March 1923, resembled the Oct M1919 insignia, but general officers had a red cloth triangle with silver braid edging and a silver *Vytis* knight, full generals a silver oak-branch; field and subaltern officers had gold stars, and NCOs yellow rank bars and collar-edging.

Branch distinctions

Officers' branch insignia, introduced 21 Feb 1919, comprised branch-colour collar triangles: General Officers and Arty = red; Staff = blue; Inf = yellow; Cav = white; Eng = pink; Med = blue with red cross. The M1920 branch-colours were unaltered, except Engineers wore dark red and Border Guards black piped with white. Gilt unit numbers were introduced for wear on the shoulder straps.

A Lithuanian infantryman wearing a field-grey uniform without any insignia. He wears a 'Kaunas cap', a locally-manufactured greatcoat and Russian marching-boots. His belt, single set of ammunition pouches, stick-grenades and rifle are all German issue. (Nigel Thomas Collection)

LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE WARS, 12 DEC 1918–29 NOV 1920

Lithuanian-Bolshevik War, 12 Dec 1918–12 July 1920

On 12 Dec 1918 Bolshevik Western Army forces advanced through E Lithuania, taking Ezerenai (now Zarasai) and Švenčionys on 22 Dec, Utena (23rd) and Rokiskis (27th). Other Bolshevik forces advanced westwards to Ukmergė and Panevėžys (9 Jan 1919), Šiauliai (15th), Telšiai (25th) and Mažeikiai, halting on the Venta River line.

Lithuanian forces, reinforced by ex-German Tenth Army's 46th Saxon Vol Div, held Kaunas, and Lithuanian 1st Inf Regt defeated the Bolsheviks at Alytus (12–15 February). They then counterattacked in N Lithuania, taking Mažeikiai and Syad (7 March) Kuršėnai, Šiauliai (11th), Radviliškis (12th), Šeduva and Joniškėlis (14th), and finally Panevėžys on 19–24 March, only to lose the latter again on 4 April.

A group of Lithuanian soldiers with local village women. The lieutenant (front right) wears a 'Kaunas cap' with silver chinstrap, and 2 rank stars on his coat collar. One soldier (rear right) wears a *gymnastiorka* field-shirt, and the two at the left have ex-US Army greatcoats. (Nigel Thomas Collection)

On 26 Apr 1919 Gen Silvestras Žukauskas, the new Chief of General Staff (appointed C-in-C, 7 May), launched the April Offensive in NE Lithuania, when Panevėžys Bn and Saxon troops took Ukmergė (3 May) and Širventos (7 May). On that day Žukauskas divided the Lithuanian Army into Vilkmergė Group and Panevėžys Group. In the May Offensive, commencing 18 May, Panevėžys Group, supported by the Joiskelis Partisans, took Panevėžys (19–23 May), Subačius (27th), Rokiškis (30th), Kupiškis (31st) and Obelial (7 June); Vilkmergė Group occupied Ukmergė (3 May), Širvintos (7th), Giedraičiai (9th), Kurkliai (18th), Anykščiai (19th) and Utena (2 June), ending at Zarasai on the Belorussian border. The Bolsheviks retook Zarasai on 12 June, but lost it again to the 1st Inf Regt on 25 August. The Lithuanians then advanced to Daugavpils, occupying some suburbs on 2 Oct 1919, many months before the ceasefire in May 1920.

Lithuanian-Bermontian War, 26 July–15 Dec 1919

In June 1919, while the Lithuanian Army was fully engaged fighting the Bolsheviks, the White Russian *General-Mayor* Bermondt-Avalov's Western Volunteer Army (ZDA) crossed from Latvia into N Lithuania, occupying Kuršėnai. By Oct the ZDA had occupied a significant part of north-central Lithuania, including Šiauliai, Biržai and Radviliškis, where they terrorized the local population. In that month Lithuanian forces engaged the ZDA. Mariampolė Bn was victorious at Seduva (6 Oct); 1st and 2nd Inf Regts inflicted a heavy defeat at Radviliškis (21–22 Nov), and 4th and 5th Inf Regts liberated Šiauliai. Finally, on Allied orders the ZDA were evacuated to Germany on 15 Dec 1919.

Polish-Lithuanian War, Apr 1919–29 Nov 1920

Poland and Lithuania both claimed the Vilna and Suwałki governorates. Vilnius city was occupied by Germans on 18 Sept 1915, and by Lithuanians on 16 Feb 1918; by Lithuanian communists on 16 Dec 1918, by local Polish forces on 1–4 Jan 1919, and by the RSFSR Red Army for the Litbel Republic on 5 January. The Polish Army occupied the city 19–21 Apr 1919, but abandoned it to the RSFSR on 14 July 1920 as it retreated to Warsaw during the Russo-Polish War. The Bolsheviks immediately ceded Vilnius to Lithuania.

Lithuanian forces, including six Inf Regts (numbered 2, 3, 5–9) successfully defended the border from Polish forces advancing again from Warsaw in Aug–Nov 1920. The Treaty of Moscow of 12 July awarded Vilnius to Lithuania as its capital, and this was supported by the League of Nations' Suwałki Agreement of 7 Oct 1920. Nevertheless, during the Russo-Polish battle of the Niemen River on 15–25 Sept 1920, Polish and Lithuanian forces had clashed along the disputed demarcation line.

On 9 Oct, the day before the Suwalki Agreement came into force, the Polish leader, Marshal Józef Piłsudski, ordered LtGen Lucjan Żeligowski, GOC 1st Lithuanian-Belorussian Inf Div, to 'mutiny' and occupy the region

This Lithuanian cavalryman wears a 'Kaunas cap' with a *Vytis* badge, a Russian khaki *gymnastiorka*, civilian trousers, and puttees and ankle boots instead of riding boots. He carries a Cossack sabre from a strap over his right shoulder. (Nigel Thomas Collection)

These men of the Baltic Battalion formed by Oberst Constantin von Weiß wear German helmets, and US-supplied summer shirts with their field sign of a white-and-black chevron above a white cross sewn to the left sleeve (see Plate E4). Note (rear right) black Russian-style shoulder straps with a large 'B' (for Baltic) cypher. The second lieutenant (rear centre) wears a Russian khaki peaked cap, and black shoulder straps with two silver stars and a white centre-stripe. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

as the Republic of Central Lithuania. Želigowski obeyed, but met resistance from Lithuanian forces, including 4th Inf Regt. On 8 Jan 1922 this so-called republic joined Poland – compelling a resentful Lithuania to choose Kaunas as its capital, and to refuse diplomatic relations with Poland.

Finally, on 27 Sept 1939, the Red Army, in the course of helping the Wehrmacht defeat Poland (1 Sept–6 Oct 1939), awarded Vilnius to Lithuania.

GERMANY AND THE BALTIC

Germany's ambitions to dominate the Baltic region dated from as early as 1193, when Pope Innocent III declared the Northern Crusade, calling on German knights and traders to introduce Christian civilization to the pagan Baltic tribes. After the conquest a Baltic German community formed a permanent ruling caste in Estonia and Latvia; Lithuania remained unconquered, joining Poland to form one of medieval Europe's great powers. Throughout the centuries the Baltic provinces moved successively from German to Polish, Swedish, and finally Russian control until 1918. Baltic Germans (*Baltendeutsche*) were distinct from nationals of the German Empire (*Reichsdeutsche*), and regarded themselves as subjects of the Russian Empire.

Organization (see Table 5): Ober Ost

German Eastern Command was established in August 1914 to administer territories conquered by the German Imperial Army in the Great War. German Tenth Army invaded Lithuania on 26 May 1915, and by 4 March 1918 Tenth and Eighth Armies and Army Detachment D had conquered the Baltic

Table 5: Selective battle order of German forces in the Baltic region, 11 November 1918–1 April 1920

Ober Ost:

Eighth Army: 60 Special Corps (5 Replacement Div); 61 Special Corps; 67 Special Corps (17, 23 Landwehr Divs); 68 Special Div (205 Inf Div); 19 Landwehr Div; 77 Res Div.

Tenth Army: 62 Special Corps (4 Landwehr Div, 46 Saxon Vol Div); Landwehr Corps.

Army Detachment D: 53 Special Corps (85 Landwehr Div, 5 Replacement Div).

VI Reserve Corps (Freikorps):

German Legion: 1–4 Legion Regts.

1. Guards Reserve Div: 1 Guards Res Inf Bde (1–2 & 64 Guards Reserve Inf Regts); 8 Guards Res Arty Command (1, 2 Guards Res Arty Regt).

Iron Bde / Iron Div / Courland Bde: 1–3 Courland Regts; Courland Light Inf Bn; Petersdorff MG Sharpshooter Bn; Courland Cav Regt; Courland Arty Regt; Armd Car Det; 427 Air Det.

North Lithuania Bde: Fischer, Kettner, Rohrbach & 341 Vol Regts; Vol Arty Regt.

Schaulen (Šiaulai) Bde: Hüniken, Von Bülow & Von Randow Vol Bns; 3 Cav Sqns; 4 Art Btys.

South Lithuania Bde: 18–20 Vol Regts; 18 & 19 Vol Arty Regts.

United Baltic Duchy:

Baltic Landeswehr: Assault Troop; 1 German Baltic Combat Bn; 2 German Baltic Combat Bn; 3 German Baltic Combat Bn; MG Sharpshooter Det; Fürst von Lieven Russian Cav Bn; Russian, Engelhardt, Drachenfels, Pappenhreim & Halm Cav Bns; Latvian Indep Bde; Latvian Indep Bn; Latvian Cav Bn; 1–3 & Russian Arty Btys; German Baltic Howitzer Bty; Freikorps von Medem; 433 Air Det.

region, one day after the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk had awarded it to Germany. Eighth Army garrisoned Estonia and most of Latvia with four Special Corps (*Generalkommando zbV* – corps-status formations without full Corps HQ troops), numbered 68 for Estonia, 67 for Courland, 61 for Latgale and 63 for Livonia. Tenth Army and Army Detachment D controlled Lithuania with Landwehr, 62 and 53 Special Corps, totalling 9 second-line divisions.

Discipline was shaky among troops eager to return home after the 11 Nov 1918 armistice, but the Allied powers insisted that the German garrison remained in place to support the embryonic Baltic armies against the Bolsheviks. Thus 405 Inf Regt (205th Inf Div) helped the Estonian EK defend Narva on 22 Nov 1918, and 4,000 mercenaries in the 46th Saxon Vol Div supported the Lithuanians in Jan–Apr 1919 – yet all the while the Germans were suppressing Baltic nationalism and promoting their own colonial agenda. Eighth Army was repatriated from 12 Jan 1919, followed by Tenth Army in February. Personnel wore standard German Army uniforms and insignia (for the Baltic Bn see above, under 'Estonia's Allies').

The Baltic Landeswehr volunteer Gefreiter Guido von Maydell wears an M1916 helmet, and the other ranks' field-grey greatcoat with silver braid collar rank-bars. Greyish-green canvas straps support his belt, which has a Prussian buckle-plate and M1909 pouches (K. Erdman, Flickr/Public domain)

VI Reserve Corps (Freikorps)

From 5 Dec 1918 many German troops opted to remain at their posts to defend Germany's eastern borders from attack by Polish and Bolshevik forces. They formed *Freikorps* (Free Corps) units and sub-units; grouped into nominal brigades and divisions, these were subordinated from 1 Feb 1919 to VI Reserve Corps, commanded by the formidable *Generalmajor* Rüdiger von der Goltz, who landed at Liepāja in Courland on that day.

In Liepaja on 21 Dec 1918, *Major* Bischoff had formed the Iron Bde, expanded to a division in Jan 1919, but this failed

Major Eugen, Freiherr von Engelhardt, commander of the Engelhardt Cavalry Bn of the Baltic Landeswehr in summer 1919. He is wearing his Landeswehr officers' peaked cap with a white crown-cover piped blue, and a blue band with a blue-and-silver cockade. His field-grey tunic has three German collar rank stars, and narrow plaited silver-cord shoulder straps. He carries a Cossack sabre. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

to hold Riga on 18 January. Large numbers of fresh Freikorps volunteers were recruited from all over Germany, both as units and individuals, and hostilities against the Bolsheviks were renewed. After recapturing Riga the Iron Div advanced north to seize control of all Latvian territory, but was defeated by Estonian and Latvian forces at Cēsis on 23 June 1919. Pushed back to Courland, the formation expanded to 14,000 men, and in late Sept joined with Bermondt-Avalov's ZDA. However, it was unable to recapture Riga, and in Dec 1919 it was pushed back into German East Prussia.

The Guards Reserve Div, re-formed with Freikorps units in Jan 1919, served in Courland in March–July 1919. The German Legion, formed in Sept 1919 from German members of the Baltic Landeswehr who refused to join the Latvian Army or return to Germany, joined the ZDA and fought Lithuanian troops, before returning to Germany in December 1919. The North Lithuania, South Lithuania and Schaulen Bdes did not see action. Freikorps personnel wore German uniform items and rank insignia, with a variety of unofficial unit badges (see Elite 76, *The German Freikorps 1918–23*).

Baltic Landeswehr

On 8 March 1918 the Courland Provincial Council, and on 12 Apr the United Provincial Council of Livonia, Estonia and Ösel (Saaremaa) – both representing Baltic Germans – declared themselves independent states, and on 22 Sept 1918 were recognized by Kaiser Wilhelm II as a sovereign state within the German Empire: the United Baltic Duchy (*Vereinigtes Baltisches Herzogtum*), with Riga as capital. The head of state subordinate to the Kaiser was to be Duke Adolf Friedrich von Mecklenburg.

The Kaiser's abdication on 9 Nov 1918, the armistice of 11 Nov, and Estonia's and Latvia's declarations of independence in Feb and Nov respectively, destroyed all hopes of an independent Baltic German state. Nevertheless, the Baltic Defence Force (*Baltische Landeswehr*) was formed on 9 Nov 1918 as the Duchy's armed forces, and this decision was supported

G

LITHUANIAN ARMY, 1918–1920

(1) *Būrininkas*, 1st Infantry Regiment; Alytus, February 1919
This sergeant-equivalent platoon commander is wearing the new greenish-grey uniform: a 'Kaunas' cap with M1919 badge, and a greatcoat over a tunic, both with two infantry-yellow rank bars on the collar – note also the old M1918 sleeve triangle striped in yellow, green and red national colours. He wears a British M1914 leather waistbelt, and two others rigged as braces supporting German M1909 ammunition pouches. His rifle is Russian, his stick-grenades German.

(2) *Divizijos vadas*, 2nd Infantry Regiment; Kaunas, April 1919
This lieutenant-colonel wears the M1919 officers' uniform with a Russian belt and German P08 pistol; his binoculars are civilian. The officers' kepi has an infantry-yellow band, M1919 badge, and silver braid chinstrap. His rank is identified by silver braid edging and two stars on the yellow cloth triangle patches on the plain collar of his *French*.

(3) *Vachmistras*, 1st Cavalry Regiment; Vilnius, March 1919
This squadron sergeant-major wears a Russian khaki cap with the M1919 badge above a cavalry-white band. His khaki ex-US Army M1917 tunic has bronze buttons, and wide cavalry-white collar rank bars; it is worn with Russian breeches and soft leather riding boots. His belt, revolver, and Cossack sabre are all Russian.

1
2
3

A private of the Baden Assault Bn; usually called the *Freikorps von Medem* – compare with Plate H2 – it was redesignated as I Bn/ 4 Regt of the German Legion. This field-grey uniform reflects the Great War traditions of the German mountain troops. The M1915 *Bergmütze* cap has a red-white-black Imperial cockade above a Baden yellow-red-yellow cockade, and a white-and-yellow *Edelweiss* badge on the left side, which is repeated as collar badges. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

by the Inter-Allied Commission of Control, which insisted the Landeswehr guard the Baltic region from Bolshevik attack. The force comprised 4 Baltic German units – an Assault Troop, and 1st–3rd Combat Bns – together with various Freikorps, Latvian and White Russian units.

Initially the Landeswehr retreated with the Latvian forces to Liepāja, but in March 1919 it occupied Ventspils, before attempting a *coup d'état* against the Latvian government in April. In the ensuing conflict Estonian-Latvian forces delivered a decisive victory over the Landeswehr and other German forces at Cēsis on 23 June. The Allies organized an armistice, and the Landeswehr CO, *Maj* Alfred Fletcher (a German despite his English name) was replaced on 12 July 1919 by British LtCol Harold Alexander (later FM Viscount Alexander of Tunis). Alexander dismissed the *Reichsdeutsche* personnel, and the remaining troops fought in Latgale with the Latvian Army in Jan 1920. Von der Goltz was repatriated to Germany, and on 10 March 1920 ex-Landeswehr infantry units formed the Latvian 13th Tukums Inf Regt, while most of the dismissed Baltic Germans joined the German Legion.

The Baltic Landeswehr, officially functioning as the Latvian Army, wore a variety of uniforms and insignia. Baltic Germans wore German field-grey uniforms with breast pockets with scalloped buttoned pocket flaps added, and collar rank insignia (see Table 10, page 63). Reichsdeutsche volunteers wore German Imperial Army uniforms and rank insignia; Russian troops wore Russian Imperial Army uniforms and rank insignia, officers fighting as other ranks being distinguished by a white centre-cord on their shoulder straps.

WHITE RUSSIAN FORCES

White Russian forces in NW Russia bordering the Baltic comprised the Pskov Volunteer Corps – later renamed Northern Corps, and ultimately North-Western Army (SZA); and the Western Volunteer Army (ZDA). The SZA looked to the Estonian Army to support their ambition to occupy Petrograd and defeat the Bolsheviks, at the same time hoping to reintegrate the Baltic states into a new non-communist Russia. The ZDA was openly hostile towards the Baltic states, regarding them as renegade Russian provinces – a stance which hampered the fight against their Bolshevik common enemies.

Organization (see Table 6): Pskov Volunteer/Northern Corps

The Pskov Volunteer Corps (*Pskovskiy Dobrovolcheskiy Korpus*, PDK) was formed on 10 Oct 1918 in Pskov. With German Eighth Army support, it reached a strength of 1,900 men, mainly Tsarist officers, ex-POWs and local recruits, organized into seven infantry detachments and support services. However, when the Germans withdrew the PDK was easily forced out of Pskov by the Bolshevik Seventh Army at the end of Nov 1918; it

Polkovnik Anatol Leonid, Prince (*Fürst*) von Lieven, a Baltic German aristocrat who commanded the Russian Prince Lieven Detachment of the Baltic Landeswehr, here wearing Russian uniform. The cavalry officers' peaked cap, without chinstrap, has a white crown-cover with regimental-colour piping, and a white-piped band of the same colour with an officers' cockade. His privately-purchased khaki *French* has a high Russian-style soft collar; the braid *pogoni* shoulder straps have regimental-colour piping and centre-stripes, and he displays on his sleeve the North-Western Army's chevron-and-cross field sign. Von Lieven's decorations are the St George's Cross 4th Class (left) and Britain's Military Cross. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

retreated into Estonia, coming under Estonian Army command. The PDK was reorganized from 6 Dec into 4 Inf Regts and 3 detachments. A mounted Partisan Det under *Polkovnik* Stanisław Bułak-Bałachowicz, formerly part of the Red Army, was attached to the PDK. This 400-strong unit wore unique collar rank insignia for its Russian rank titles: officers wore small silver 5-point stars and silver diagonal bars, but horizontal bars on the shoulder straps: Major-General (*General-Mayor*) = shoulder strap with horizontal bar between 2 stars; field-officers (*Polkovnik, Podpolkovnik*) = 2–1 stars and 2 bars; subaltern-officers (*Kapitan, Shtabs Kapitan, Poruchik, Podporuchik, Praporshchik*) = 4–0 stars and 1 bar.

In Dec 1918 the PDK was redesignated Northern Corps (*Severnyi Korpus*, SK) and reorganized into two Rifle Bdes containing 5 Rifle Regts

Table 6: Selective battle order of White Russian Forces in the Baltic region, 10 October 1918 – 22 January 1920

Pskov Volunteer Corps (10.10.1918): 1 Pskov, 2 Ostrov, 3 Rezhitsa Vol Rifle Regts; 53 Volynia Inf Regt; Bułak Bałachowicz Det; Colonel Bibikov Mtd Partisan Det; St George Rifle Det; Consolidated Co.

Northern Corps (12.1918): 1 RD: Gdov & Mounted Rifle Regts; Indep Officer Co. 2 RD: 2 Ostrov, 3 Talab, 8 Semyonov (ex 10 Reval), 9 Volynia (ex 53) RRs; Bułak Bałachowicz Mtd Partisan Det; Baltic Regt; Colonel Bibikov Mtd Partisan Det.

Northern Army (19.6.1919) / **North Western Army** (1.7.1919):

I Rifle Corps 2 RD: 5 Ostrov, 6 Talab, 7 Ural, 8 Semyonov RRs. 3 RD: 9 Volhynia, 10 Temnitsa, 11 Vyatka, 12 Krasnogorsk RRs. 5 Lieven RD: 17 Liepāja (1 Lieven), 18 Riga (2 Lieven), 19 Poltava (3 Lieven), 20 Chud RRs; Mtd Rifles Regt.

II Rifle Corps 4 RD: 13 Narva, 14 Voznessensk, 15 Velikoostrov, 16 Lithuanian RRs. Indep Bde: 21 Pskov, 22 Denikin, 23 Pechora RRs; Kachanovsky Bn.

1 Independent RD: 1 St George, 2 Reval, 3 Kolyvan, 4 Gdov RR; 1 Independent Lt Arty Bn.

Other units: Bułak Bałachowicz Cav Regt; 1, 2 Res Regts; Indep Tank Bn; armoured trains *Admiral Kolchak*, *Admiral Essen*, *Talabchanin*, *Pskovite*; 1 & 2 Air Sqns

Western Volunteer Army (9.5. 19.11.1919): 1, 2 Air Sqns; Mot Transport Column.

I General ot Kavalerii Count Keller's Western Volunteer Corps: Lütkenhaus Vol Bn (Ger); 1, 2 Cossack Inf Regts; 1, 2 Lt Arty Bns;1 Cav Regt; Count Keller's Hussar Regt; 1 Arty Regt.

II Western Volunteer Corps: 1 RR; Arty Bn; 1 Cav Regt; Plehwe Grp (Ger); Goldingen Vol Light Inf Corps (Ger); Iron Div (Ger); German Legion (Ger).

and support services. On 13 May 1919 the 5,600-strong SK and Estonian 1st Div launched the Petrograd offensive, taking Pskov and Yamburg. On 1 June, during the advance, the SK underwent its third reorganization, now comprising 6 Rifle Regts in 1st & 2nd Rifle Divs and support services. In June the SK advanced to Luga and Gatchina, only 40 miles from St Petersburg, but determined Bolshevik resistance prevented any further advance.

Northern/North-Western Army

On 19 June 1919 the Northern Corps was redesignated Northern Army (*Severnaya Armiya*), and on 1 July North-Western Army (*Severo-Zapadnaya Armiya*, SZA). It had expanded to 17,500 men in I & II Rifle Corps, containing 1st–5th Rifle Divs and an Indep Bde; in all it mustered 24 understrength Rifle Regts with supporting services, including a Tank Bn, 4 armoured trains and 2 air squadrons. On 1 Aug 1919 the Bolsheviks counterattacked, forcing the SZA and Estonians back to Yamburg on the 5th, to Pskov (28th), and then into Estonia in September.

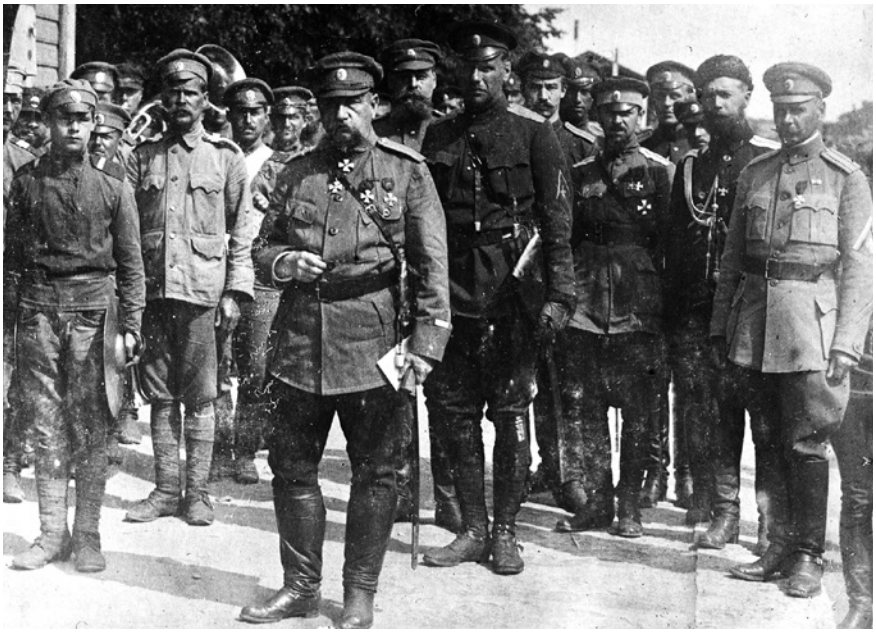
On 10 Oct 1919 the 18,500-strong SZA launched the 'White Sword' offensive; by the 16th it had retaken Luga and Gatchina, and by 20 Oct Tsarskoe Selo, 16 miles from Petrograd. The SZA took the Pulkovo Heights surrounding the city and the Ligovo suburb from elements of the Bolshevik Seventh and Fifteenth Armies. However, Bermondt-Avalov's ZDA, the Royal Navy, and Estonian 1st Div all refused support, and after 10 days of close-quarter fighting the SZA was forced back to Narva during 2–12 Nov 1919.

The Estonians disarmed the once proud SZA – though still some 15,000 strong, they were infected with typhus, extremely disorganized, and burdened with refugees – and interned 5,000 of them in quarantine camps; others were sent to work as loggers in the forests. The most capable battalions fought on under Estonian command until the armistice, and the SZA was officially disbanded on 22 Jan 1920.

A German officer serving in the Western Volunteer Army, late 1919. He wears the Russian officers' peaked cap with a white cover and regimental crown piping, and a regimental-coloured band with an officers' cockade. His field-grey tunic has officers' dull silver collar-braids, the braid service-quality shoulder straps of a ZDA *poruchik* (first lieutenant), and the ZDA field sign of a Russian cross on his sleeve, in silver braid. The cross at his throat is the Russian Order of St Stanislav, and above his ribbon-bar he wears the black enamel cross ZDA badge. On his pocket are the M1919 Landeswehr Baltic Cross, awarded to all ranks for three months' service in-theatre, above a German M1918 bronze wound badge (left) and, cut by the bottom of the photo, a silver German M1913 pilot's qualification badge. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

Western Volunteer Army

The Western Volunteer Army (*Zapadnaya Dobrovolcheskaya Armiya*, ZDA), popularly known as the 'Bermontians', was a German-sponsored White Russian force. It was formed on 9 May 1919 by the charismatic *General-Mayor* Pavel Bermondt-Avalov, who was nominally subordinate to Gen Yudenich of the SZA but in fact acknowledged no man's superiority. His nominally Russian army (HQ Jelgava, Latvia) was mainly recruited from POW camps in Germany, and was actually controlled by Gen Rüdiger von der Goltz (see above, under 'Germany and the Baltic'). The GOC German VI Reserve Corps would 'hide' German Legion and Iron Div personnel in the ZDA in Sept 1919, to deceive the Inter-Allied Commission into thinking that they had returned to Germany after June 1919 as demanded. The



General ot Infanterii Nikolai Yudenich (foreground) with the staff of I Rifle Corps of the North-Western Army, summer 1919. Behind him his deputy, *General-Mayor* Alexander Rodzyanko, wears a dark tunic, and puttees in place of riding boots. Most of the officers on the right are wearing khaki peaked caps and *French* tunics, showing the SZA chevron-and-cross sleeve insignia. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

ZDA comprised only 10,000 White Russians in I Western Vol Corps, but reportedly as many as 40,000 Germans in II Western Vol Corps.

In June 1919 the ZDA occupied Kuršėnai, and on 8 Oct it attacked Riga. The Latvians counterattacked, and on 11 Nov forced the White Russians to retreat into Lithuania. Lithuanian forces then took the offensive against its occupation of part of north-central Lithuania, and inflicted a crushing defeat on the ZDA on 21–22 Nov. On 5 Dec 1919 the Inter-Allied Commission ordered Bermondt-Avalov's forces to evacuate to Germany.

H

GERMAN & WHITE RUSSIAN FORCES, 1919

(1) *Feldmeister*, Manteuffel Assault Troop, attached 1st German-Baltic Combat Battalion; Northern Latvia, May 1919

This Baltic Landeswehr corporal of the unit led by the talented Baron Hans von Manteuffel-Szoege has a locally-produced German uniform with external breast pockets (note document tucked in cuff). The NCO's cap is distinguished by a blue-and-white United Baltic Duchy cockade on the blue band piped white, below the black-and-white Teutonic Order shield of the élite Assault Troop (*Stoßtrupp*). His shoulder straps have blue-and-white twist volunteer edging; his officer-style high dark green turnover collar is piped white, with two silver braid rank bars, and he displays the buttonhole ribbon of the 1914 Iron Cross 2nd Class, a Landeswehr Baltic Cross, and a silver wound badge. His weapons and equipment are all German-supplied.

(2) *Leutnant*, Freikorps von Medem; Riga, May 1919

This Baden officer's original Freikorps in the Baltic Landeswehr was later redesignated I Bn/ 4th Regt German Legion. He wears a field-grey M1915 mountain cap with green crown piping, and a yellow-red-yellow Baden cockade. The M1915 officers' tunic, with a high dark green turnover collar and added breast pockets, has silver-cord subaltern's shoulder straps on red cloth underlay, and this unit's *Edelweiss* collar badges in white and yellow metal. His Great War combat service is shown by the pin-on Iron Cross 1st Class, a wound badge, and an M1916 brass wreathed machine-gun sleeve badge for other ranks in MG sharpshooter units. He wears mountain troops' puttees and cleated climbing boots.

(3) *Zauryad-praporshchik*, Western Volunteer Army; Liepāja, September 1919

This sergeant-major acting lieutenant of the 'Bermontian' White Russian ZDA wears field-grey German uniform. The M1910 officers' cap displays a Russian other ranks' cockade and German amaranth-red infantry piping and band. His 8-button M1908 field tunic with a retailored stand-up collar has amaranth-red piping on the collar, front and cuffs, and gold NCO collar and cuff braid – the cuff buttons have been removed. The Russian silver-braid regimental shoulder straps have an orange centre-stripe, orange inner and black outer piping, and a gilt count's crown and 'K' cipher for Gen Count Keller, who was commemorated by I Western Vol Corps; rank is indicated by a small ensign's star and a sergeant-major's wide transverse lace. The field sign used by the corps was this silver-braid Russian Cross on the sleeve; II Corps displayed a black shield piped yellow and bearing a white Latin cross, above a black-yellow-white point-up chevron. His decoration is the Courland Service Medal. His belt buckle-plate is Prussian, his sword an M1881 Cossack sabre.

1
2
3

Table 7: Estonian People's Army rank insignia, 22 April 1919–March 1920

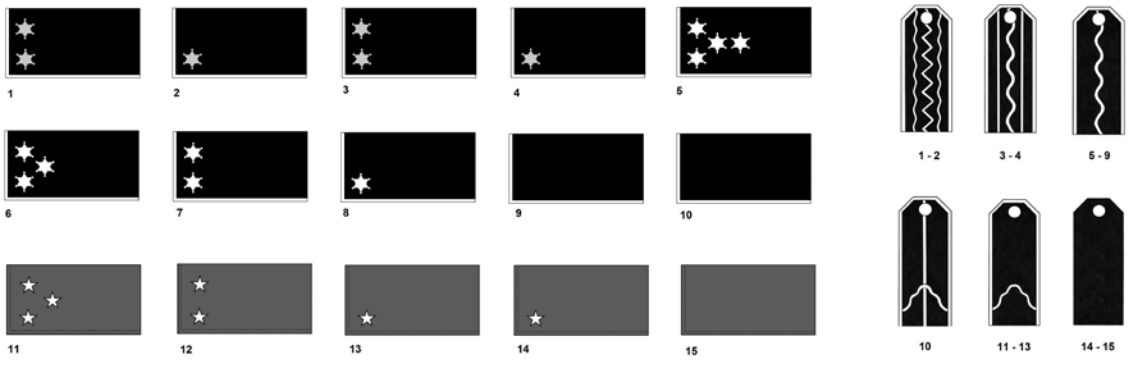


Table 7. All ranks wore rank stars on the tunic-cloth collar, and embroidery on light blue shoulder straps.

General officers (*kindralid*) 1–2: 2–1 gold 6-point stars on black collar piped white; white-piped shoulder straps with 2 silver wavy stripes flanking 1 gold zigzag centre-stripe.
Field officers (*staabi-ohvitserid*) 3–4: 2–1 gold 6-point stars on black collar piped white; white-piped shoulder straps with 2 silver straight stripes flanking 1 gold wavy centre-stripe.
Subaltern officers (*ober-ohvitserid*) 5–9: 4–0 silver 6-point stars on black collar piped white; white-piped shoulder straps with 1 silver wavy centre-stripe.
NCO Acting Lieutenant (*ohvitseri asetäitja*) 10: plain black collar piped white; white-piped shoulder straps with 1 silver straight centre-stripe and wavy chevron.
Non-commissioned officers (*allohvitserid*) 11–13: 3–1 silver 5-point (unofficially, 6-point) stars on grey uniform collar; white-piped shoulder-straps with a wavy chevron.
Soldiers (*sõdurid*) 14–15: 1–0 silver 5-point (unofficially, 6-point) stars on grey uniform collar; plain shoulder straps.

Key – rank titles:
1. *Kindral* (Gen – rank created but not held)
2. *Kindralmajor* (MajGen)
3. *Polkovnik* (Col)
4. *Alampolkovnik* (LtCol)
5. *Kapten* (Capt)
6. *Alamkapten* (Junior Capt)
7. *Leitnant* (Lt)
8. *Alamleitnant* (2nd Lt)
9. *Lipnik* (Ensign)
10. *Ohvitseri asetäitja* (NCO Acting Lt)
11. *Veltveebel* (Sgt Maj)
12. *Vanem allovitser* (Sgt)
13. *Noorem allohvitser* (Cpl)
14. *Kapral* (Lance-Cpl)
15. *Reamees* (Private)

Table 8: Latvian Army rank insignia, 28 February 1919–31 May 1921

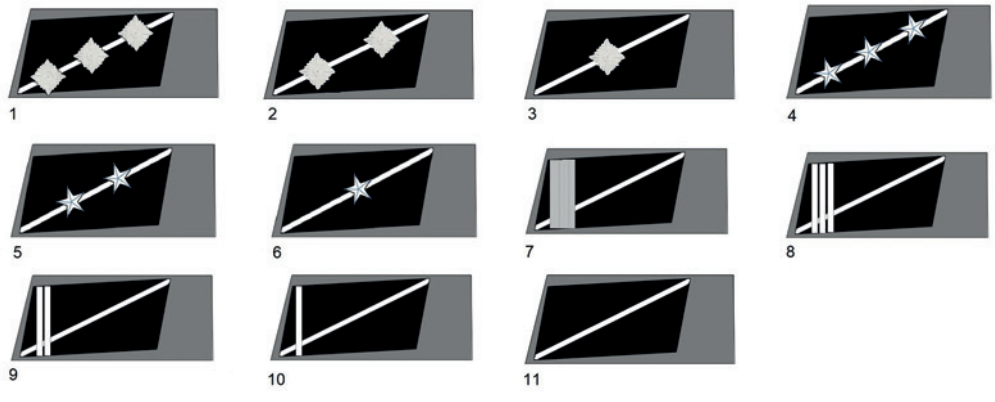


Table 8. All ranks wore rank insignia on dark red or bright red cloth collar patches with white cloth diagonal stripes.

Senior officers (*virsnieki*) 1–3: 3–1 gold wire German officers' 4-point stars along diagonal stripe.
Junior officers (*virsnieki*) 4–6: 3–1 gold metal 5-point stars along diagonal stripe.
Non-commissioned officers (*apakšvirsnieki*) 7–9: 1 wide gold braid (7) and 3–2 narrow white cloth vertical bars.
Soldiers (*kareivi*) 10–11: 1–0 white cloth vertical bars.

Key – rank titles:
1. *Generālis* (MajGen)
2. *Pulkvedis* (Col)
3. *Kopvedis*, 7.8.1919 *Pulkvedis-leitnants* (LtCol)
4. *Kapitans*, later *Kapteinis* (Capt)
5. *Virsleitnants* (Lt)
6. *Leitnants* (2nd Lt)
7. *Virsseržants* (SgtMaj)
8. *Seržants* (Sgt)
9. *Kaprālis* (Cpl)
10. *Dižkareivis* (Lance-Cpl)
11. *Kareivis* (Private)

Table 9: Lithuanian Army rank insignia, 11 October 1919–15 August 1920

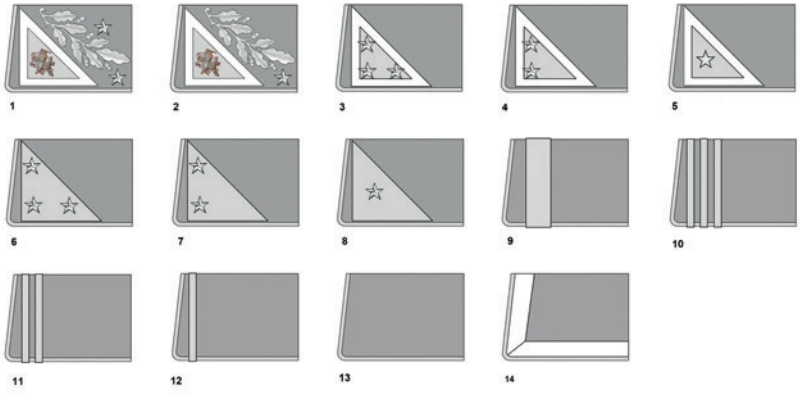


Table 9. All ranks wore insignia on greatcoat and tunic collars – officers on collar triangles, other ranks as branch-colour braid bars sewn directly onto the collar.

General officers (*Generolai*) 1–2: silver metal charging knight badge on red cloth triangle edged with silver braid; silver wire oak branch, and 2–1 silver wire 5-point stars on khaki collar piped red.
Field officers (*Vyresnieji karininkai*) 3–5: 3–1 silver metal 5-point stars on branch-colour cloth triangle edged with silver braid, on khaki collar piped golden-yellow.
Subaltern officers (*Jaunesnieji karininkai*) 6–8: 3–1 silver metal 5-point stars on branch-colour cloth triangle, on khaki collar piped golden-yellow.
Non-commissioned officers (*Puskarininkai*) 9–11: 1 wide and 3–2 narrow branch-colour vertical braid bars, on khaki collar piped golden-yellow.
Soldiers (*Kareiviai*) 12–13: 2–0 narrow branch-colour vertical braid bars, on khaki collar piped golden-yellow.
Officer cadet, Military Academy,14: silver braid collar-edging on khaki collar piped golden-yellow.

Key – rank-titles:
1. *Generolas* (Gen)
2. *Generolas leitenantas* (LtGen)
3. *Pulkininkas* (Col)
4. *Pulkininkas leitenantas* (LtCol)
5. *Majoras* (Maj)
6. *Kapitonas* (Capt)
7. *Vyresnysis leitenantas* (Lt)
8. *Leitenantas* (2nd Lt)
9. *Viršila* (Cav: *vachmistras*) (SgtMaj)
10. *Vyresnysis puskarininkas* (Sgt)
11. *Jaunesnysis puskarininkas* (Cpl)
12. *Grandinis kareivis* (Lance-Cpl)
13. *Eilinis kareivis* (Private)
14. *Mokinis (Officer cadet)*

Table 10: Baltic Landeswehr rank insignia, 17 November 1918–3 July 1919

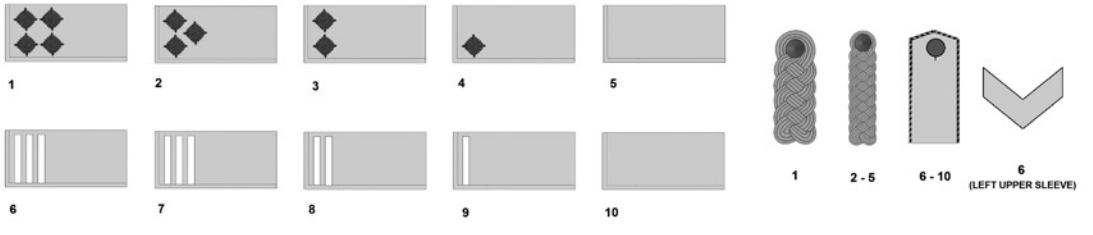


Table 10. All ranks wore insignia on greatcoat and tunic collars – officers as 4-point metal stars, other ranks as vertical silver braid bars – combined with rank-group shoulder traps.

Commander (*Befehlshaber*) 1: 4 collar stars; thick gold-silver-gold plaited cord shoulder straps.
Officers (*Offiziere*) 2–5: 3–0 collar stars; narrow silver plaited shoulder straps with blue chevron threads.
Non-commissioned officers (*Unteroffiziere*) 6–8: **(6)** 3 medium collar bars; wide silver braid chevron on left upper sleeve or silver braid cuff ring; or wide silver braid collar bar only **(7–8)** 3–2 medium collar bars; field-grey pointed shoulder straps piped with blue-and-white twist cord
Soldiers (*Mannschaften*) 9–10: 1–0 medium collar bars, on shoulder straps as **(7–8)**

Key – rank titles:
1. *Befehlshaber* (MajGen), GOC
2. *Kommandeur* (LtCol), CO Detachment; & *Major* (Maj)
3. *Rittmeister* (Capt), Company Cdr
4. *Kornett* (Lt), Platoon Cdr
5. *Fähnrich* (2nd Lt)
6. *Wachtmeister* (SgtMaj), Company SgtMaj
7. *Oberfeldmeister* (Sgt)
8. *Feldmeister* (Cpl), Section Cdr
9. *Gefreiter* (Lance-Cpl)
10. *Freiwilliger* (Volunteer)

INDEX

Page numbers in **bold** refer to illustrations and their captions.

armoured cars and crew **B3(16–17)**, **18**, 19, **35**
armoured trains and crew **B3(16–17)**, 19, **19**, 27, **28**, 30, **30**
Army Detachment D 52–53

Balodis, *Generalis* Janis **37**, 43, 44
Baltic Germans 20, 27, 31, 52
Bermondt-Avalov, *General-Mayor* Pavel 44, 58, 59–60
Brest-Litovsk, Treaty of 5, 13, 46, 53

Danish Baltic Auxiliary Corps **C3(20–21)**, 22
Denmark 20, 22, **34**

Estonia 5, **6(map)**, 12–13, 53, 58
Estonian allied forces 20, **E(40–41)**
  Baltic Germans 20, 22, 27, 31, 52
  Denmark **20**, **C3(20–21)**, 22, **34**
  Finland **B4(16–17)**, 22–23, 28, **32**, **33**
  Great Britain 23
  Ingria 24–25
  Sweden 26, **36**, **E3(40–41)**
Estonian Defence League 13
Estonian Independence War **4**, 7–8, 27, 34–36
  armistice 34
  counterattack, Nov 1918–Feb 1919 27–28, 30
  defending the borders, July–Aug 1919 32
  incursions into Russia and Latvia, May–June 1919 30–31
  Landeswehr campaign, May–June 1919 31
  last battles, Nov–Dec 1919 33–34
  Red Army offensive, Feb–May 1919 30
  second advance into Russia, Oct–Nov 1919 32–33
Estonian National Division 12–13, **12**, 15
Estonian Navy **C4(20–21)**, 28, **31**, 33
Estonian People's Army 27, 34–35, 43
  armoured cars and crew **B3(16–17)**, **18**, **35**
  armoured trains and crew **B3(16–17)**, 19, **19**, 27, **28**, 30, **30**
  artillery **10**, **22**, **26**
  branch & unit distinctions 18–19
  cavalry 15, **B1(16–17)**, 31
  ceremonial uniform 15–16
  dress uniforms **D3(28–29)**
  field uniforms 15, **19**, **23**, **25**, **26**
  headgear **10**, **13**, 15, 16, **B(16–17)**, **18**, **C1–2(20–21)**, **23**, **24**, **25**, **28**, **D(28–29)**, **30**, **35**
  Independent Student Company **4**, **B2(16–17)**
  infantry 12–13, 27, **D3(28–29)**
  Kalevlaste Maleva Battalion **D1(28–29)**
  Kuperjanov Partisan Bn **14**, **C1(20–21)**, **24**, 27
  officers **14**, 15, 15–16, **15**, **B4(16–17)**, 18, **19**, **C1–2(20–21)**, **24**, **26**, **28**, **D3–4(28–29)**, 35
  organization 13–14
  rank insignia 15, **15**, **B1(16–17)**, **B4(16–17)**, 18, **18**, **19**, **C1(20–21)**, **24**, **26**, **D1(28–29)**, **35**, **62**
  Scouts **25**, **D2(28–29)**
  weapons **4**, **B(16–17)**, 19, **C(20–21)**, 27
Estonian Red Army 8, **A2(8–9)**, **11**

Finland **B4(16–17)**, 22–23, 28, **32**, **33**
Finnish Northern Sons Regiment **B4(16–17)**, 23, **32**, 44

German Legion 54, 56, **56**, 59
Germany and German forces 5, 43, 52, **57**
  405 Inf Regt 53
  Baltic Battalion 20, **52**
  Baltic Landeswehr **53**, 54, 56, **62**
  Eighth Army 52–53
  field uniforms 56, **56**, **H3(60–61)**
  Guards Reserve Div 54
  headgear **52**, **53**, **56**, **57**, **59**, **60**, **H(60–61)**
  Iron Div 53–54, 59
  Manteuffel Assault Troop **H1(60–61)**
  officers **52**, **57**, **59**, **60**, **H2(60–61)**
  organization 52–53
  Tenth Army 52–53
  VI Reserve Corps (Freikorps) 53–54
  Western Volunteer Army 59–60, **59**, **H3(60–61)**
Goltz, *Generalmajor* Rüdiger von der 53, 56, 59
greatcoats **12**, 15, **B1–2(16–17)**, **18**, **C1(20–21)**, **C3(20–21)**, **28**, **33**, **43**, **49**, **50**, **53**

Hammer, Capt Iver de 22
headgear
  Balodis caps **37**, 38, **43**, **F3(44–45)**
  caps **A3(8–9)**
  field caps **D4(28–29)**, **33**
  fleece caps **12**, **13**, 38
  helmets **4**, **13**, **B3(16–17)**, 19, **C3(20–21)**, **28**, **D1(28–29)**, 38, **E4(40–41)**, **52**, **53**
  Kaunas caps 47, 48, **49**, **50**, **51**, **G1(54–55)**
  kepis **36**, **46**, **G2(54–55)**
  lambskin caps **B2(16–17)**
  lambswool caps **B4(16–17)**, **E2(40–41)**
  Mannerheim caps **33**
  mountain caps **H2(60–61)**
  peaked caps 7, **A1(8–9)**, 15, 16, **B1(16–17)**, **18**, **C2(20–21)**, **23**, **24**, **25**, **D3(28–29)**, **30**, **35**, 38, **38**, **E1–2(40–41)**, **42**, **F1(44–45)**, **52**, **G2(54–55)**, **57**, **59**, **60**, **H1(60–61)**
  sidecaps **C3(20–21)**, 22, **34**
  slouch hats **A2(8–9)**, **10**, **11**
  winter caps 15, **C1(20–21)**, **33**, **36**

Ingria 24–25

Kalm, *Eversti* (Col) Hans 23, **32**
Kalpaks, *Kopvedis* Oscars 42, 43

Laidoner, Gen Johan 16, 20, **C2(20–21)**, 25, 27, **27**, 32–33, 35
Latvia and Latvian Army **6(map)**, 37, 56, 60
  cavalry 38–39, **42**, **F1(44–45)**
  field uniforms 38–39, **38**, **42**, **43**, **F2–3(44–45)**
  German occupation 53
  headgear **37**, **38**, **42**, **43**, **F1(44–45)**, **F3(44–45)**
  Indep Student Co 42
  Infantry 31, 42–43, 44, 46
  Latvian Independent (or Southern Latvia) Bde 43
  Northern Latvia Brigade **38**, 39, 40, 43, 44, **F2(44–45)**
  officers **37**, 38, 40, **F3(44–45)**
  organization 38, 39
  place-name variations 5
  rank insignia **37**, 39–40, **42**, **F3(44–45)**, **62**
  Southern Latvia Brigade 43, **F3(44–45)**
  weapons **43**, **F1(44–45)**, **F3(44–45)**
Latvian Aviation Group 38
Latvian Defence Force 42
Latvian Independence War 8, 10, 42
  final campaigns, Oct 1919–July 1920 44, 46
  Landeswehr campaign, Apr–July 1919 43
  Northern Front, Jan–July 1919 44
  Southern Front, Jan–March 1919 42–43
Latvian Soviet Army **A3(8–9)**
Lenin, V. I. 4, 5, 7
Lithuania and Lithuanian Army **6(map)**, 46–47, 60
  air support 47, 48
  cavalry **51**, **G3(54–55)**
  field uniforms **46**, 47–48, **49**, **50**
  German occupation 46, 52–53
  headgear **46**, 47, 48, **49**, **50**, **51**, **G(54–55)**
  infantry 47, 48, **48**, 49, 50, **G1–2(54–55)**
  Lithuanian Riflemen's Union 47
  officers **46**, 48, 49, **50**, **G1–2(54–55)**
  rank insignia 48, 49, **50**, **G2(54–55)**, **62**
  weapons **48**, **49**, **G(54–55)**
Lithuanian–Bolshevik War 10–12, 49–50

Moscow, Treaty of 12, 51
Narva 7, 8, 15, 20, 23, 25, 27, **28**, 30, 33, **33**, 53
non-commissioned officers 16, **A2(8–9)**, **B1(16–17)**, **C3(20–21)**, **23**, **D1(28–29)**, **33**, 39, **H1(60–61)**, **H3(60–61)**

Pekkanen, *Kapteeni* (Capt) E. 24
Polish Army 12, 34–35, 44
Polish-Lithuanian War 51–52

Red Army 5, 25, 51, 52
  1st Red Rifle Division **A2(8–9)**
  6th RD 7
  86th Regt 7
  Baltic campaigns 7–8, 10–12
  Estonian Independence War 26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33–34
  Estonian Red Army 5, **11**
  Fifteenth Army 5, 10
  headgear **7**, **A(8–9)**, **11**
  Kommissar, **A1(8–9)**
  Latvian Army Group 7, 8
  Latvian Red Riflemen 7, 37, 42, 43
  Latvian Soviet Army **A3(8–9)**
  Lithuanian Belorussian Army 5
  organization 5, 7
  Seventeenth Army 5
  Seventh Army 7–8
  Sixteenth Army 5, 12
  Soviet Latvian Army 5, 8
  Western Army 5, 10–12
  Western Military District 5
Riga 7, 37, 42, 43, 44, 54, 60
Riga, Treaty of 10, 46
Royal Navy 23, 58
Russia 4, 5
Russian Civil War 4, 5, 16
Russian Imperial Army 4, 12–13, 37
Russian Provisional Government 12

strategic background 4–5
Suwalki Agreement 51
Sweden 26, **36**, **E3(40–41)**

Tallinn 7, 27
Tartu, Treaty of 8, 34

Vilnius 12, 51, 52
Volunteer Baltic Regiment **E4(40–41)**

weapons
  bayonets **A3(8–9)** , **12**, **B1–2(16–17)**
  carbines **B1(16–17)**, **B3(16–17)**, 19, **C1(20–21)**, **E2(40–41)**
  grenades **B3(16–17)**, **C4(20–21)**, **F1(44–45)** , **48**, **49**, **G1(54–55)**
  machine guns **A3(8–9)**, 19, **28**, **D1(28–29)**, **33**, **48**
  pistols **A1(8–9)**, **E3(40–41)**, **F3(44–45)**, **G2–3(54–55)**
  revolvers **A2(8–9)**, **B4(16–17)**
  rifles **4**, **A3(8–9)**, **12**, **B2(16–17)**, 19, **C3–4(20–21)**, **28**, **43**, **F1(44–45)**, **49**
  sabres **A2(8–9)**, **D3(28–29)**, **E1(40–41)**, **F1(44–45)** , **51**, **H3(60–61)**
Western Allies 5, 16
White Russian forces 4, 7, 24–25, 27, 30, 43
  2nd Ostrov Rifle Regiment **E1(40–41)**
  Northern Corps/Army (later North-Western Army) 30–31, 32, 32–33, **E1(40–41)**, 56, 57–58, 58
  officers **E1(40–41)**, 57
  organization 56–60
  Pskov Volunteer Corps **E2(40–41)**, 56, 56–57
  weapons **E2(40–41)**
  Western Volunteer Army 44, 50, 56
World War I 4, 5, 12–13, 37

Želigowski, LtGen Lucjan 51–52
Žukauskas, Silvestras **46**, 50

OSPREY PUBLISHING
Bloomsbury Publishing Plc
PO Box 883, Oxford, OX1 9PL, UK
1385 Broadway, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10018, USA
E-mail: info@ospreypublishing.com
www.ospreypublishing.com

OSPREY is a trademark of Osprey Publishing Ltd

First published in Great Britain in 2019

© Osprey Publishing Ltd, 2019

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be used or reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior written permission from the publishers.

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: PB 9781472830777; eBook: 9781472830784; ePDF: 9781472830791; XML: 9781472830807

Editor: Martin Windrow
Map and insignia tables by Toomas Boltowsky
Index by Alan Rutter
Typeset by PDQ Digital Media Solutions, Bungay, UK

Osprey Publishing supports the Woodland Trust, the UK's leading woodland conservation charity.

To find out more about our authors and books, visit **www.ospreypublishing.com**. Here you will find extracts, author interviews, details of forthcoming events, and the option to sign up for our newsletter.

DEDICATION

The authors would both like to dedicate this book to the Centenary of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Independence in 1918.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Toomas Boltowsky would like to thank all his current and previous colleagues, whose support and interest contributed to this book, especially Cdr Artis Tirzmalis (Latvian Navy), LtCol Agur Benno (Estonian Army) and Mr Art Johanson. Most importantly, he would like to acknowledge the tireless interest, encouragement and cooperation of Dr Nigel Thomas in making the publication of this work possible.
Nigel Thomas would like to thank the correspondents whose interest, kindness and patience have contributed so much to this book: Barbara Allen, Christopher Harrod and Dr Marc Landry. He would also like to acknowledge the work of the late Henry Rüütel and the late Frank Steff; and to thank his wife Heather and his sons Alexander and Dominick for their tireless encouragement and support. For further information on Nigel Thomas please log on to his website nt-associates.com.

Title page Estonian crew in an armoured train, manning a US M1895 Colt-Browning 'potato-digger' machine gun. They wear ex-British Army caps with Estonian M1919 *French* tunics; the visible light blue and silver shoulder strap identifies an officer or an NCO acting lieutenant. (Toomas Boltowsky Collection)

Abbreviations used in text and battle-order tables

Armd	Armoured
Arty	Artillery
Bde	Brigade
Bn	Battalion
Bty/s	Battery/ies
Cav	Cavalry
Cdr	Commander
Co/s	Company/ies
Col	Column
Dep	Deputy
Det	Detachment
Div	Division/al
Eng	Engineer
Indep	Independent
Inf	Infantry
Mtd	Mounted
Ptn	Platoon
RB/ RD/ RR	Rifle Bde/ Div/ Regt
Regt	Regiment/al
Res	Reserve
Sigs	Signals
Sqn	Squadron
Tech	Technical
Vol	Volunteer

Acronyms

CO	Commanding Officer
C-in-C	Commander-in-Chief
GHQ	General Headquarters
HQ	Headquarters
GOC	General-Officer Commanding
EK	Eesti Kaitseliit (Estonian Defence League)
Litbel	Lithuanian-Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic
LSA	Latvian Soviet Army
LSPR	Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic
LTSR	Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic
MDP	Naval Landing Battalion
NCO	Non-Commissioned Officer
PDK	Pskov Volunteer Corps
RKKA	Workers' & Peasants' Red Army
RSFSR	Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic
SK	Northern Corps
Stavka	Soviet & White Army High Commands
SZA	North-Western Army
Vytis	Lithuanian mounted knight symbol
ZDA	Western Volunteer Army ('Bermontians')